Tuesday, May 12, 2026 No 131 ₹7

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DH

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# Manipur woman alleges abuse, confinement by IIMB prof, wife

## Says she was assaulted repeatedly, even during illness, and denied proper food

BENGALURU, DHNS

A woman from Manipur was allegedly assaulted and wrongfully confined by an Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB) faculty member and his wife at their residence on the campus, according to a police complaint.

Mico Layout police in south Bengaluru have registered an FIR based on a complaint filed by the 23-year-old woman from Churachandpur.

The alleged abuse is said to have taken place over nearly five years, from June 1, 2021, to May 4, 2026.

The woman, who worked as a nanny for IIMB faculty member Prof Amar and his wife Anshu, lived with the couple on the IIMB campus in Bilekahalli.

She alleged that she was not fed properly and was repeatedly assaulted even when she was unwell. She further claimed that the couple confiscated her phone and assaulted her on several occasions, though she could not recall the exact dates.

She alleged that the most recent assault by Anshu took place on April 15 around 2.30 am.

"I was physically assaulted and my hair was pulled. I was also assaulted for talking to others. I did not tell anyone as I was afraid. They used to check the messages on my phone and illegally confine me," she stated in the complaint.

According to the FIR, the woman was not given anything to eat from the morning of May 4. Some neighbours allegedly gave her bananas and parathas.

Using their phone, she contacted a relative living in Bengaluru and later reached out to the president of the Kuki Students' Organisation Bangalore (KSOB). The KSOB represents members of Manipur's Kuki community, to which the woman belongs.

The Mico Layout police registered a case on May 6 under sections 115(2) (voluntarily causing hurt) and 127(4) (wrongful confinement) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). "An investigation is underway," a senior police officer said, declining to comment further.

A delivery worker carries domestic LPG cylinders for distribution in the city. DH FILE PHOTO

# Oil firms' LPG subsidy warning sparks confusion among consumers

BENGALURU, DHNS

Oil marketing companies (OMCs) have begun issuing warning messages to LPG consumers, stating that cooking gas subsidies could be discontinued for households where the annual taxable income of either the consumer or any family member exceeds Rs 10 lakh.

The push comes as OMCs officially begin verifying LPG subsidies based on income-tax records. Consumers outside the income-tax bracket who have their Aadhaar linked to their bank accounts receive a subsidy of Rs 24.5 per cylinder booked.

Hindustan Petroleum, Indian Oil and Bharat Petroleum are among the OMCs sharing the message.

"Dear LPG consumer, as per available income tax records, your (or a linked family member's) gross taxable income exceeds the prescribed limit of Rs 10 lakh. If you wish to dispute this, please contact the toll-free number 1800-2333-555 or register your grievance on the portal of your respective Oil Marketing Company within seven days of receipt of this message. If no response is received within the stipulated period, your LPG subsidy may be discontinued thereafter," the message reads.

The verification process is linked to income-tax records, with oil companies cross-checking consumer details against government databases to streamline subsidy disbursement.

The move has received a mixed response from citizens.

"The message annoyed me as it was a reminder that it was regarding a measly sum of Rs 24.5. Before the Covid pandemic, the subsidy used to be much higher. It was reduced during the lockdowns and has not been revised. What is the point of giving such a low subsidy to those who really need it?" said Nivedha B, a Malleswaram resident.

The message also confused many consumers, leading them to reach out to their authorised cooking gas providers.

"I was worried if this was a scam of some type or a data privacy breach," said Saria Syeda, an RT Nagar resident.

The OMCs have also introduced a Delivery Authentication Code (DAC) system to prevent unauthorised deliveries and improve transparency in the distribution network. Consumers have been cautioned against fraudulent messages and phone calls seeking OTPs or authentication codes under the guise of LPG delivery verification.

**"Dear LPG consumer, as per available income tax records, your (or a linked family member's) gross taxable income exceeds the prescribed limit of Rs 10 lakh. If you wish to dispute this, please contact the toll-free number 1800-2333-555 or register your grievance on the portal of your respective Oil Marketing Company within seven days of receipt of this message. If no response is received within the stipulated period, your LPG subsidy may be discontinued thereafter," the message reads.**

(Hindustan Petroleum, Indian Oil and Bharat Petroleum are among the OMCs sharing the message.)

# Civic agencies drag feet as Bannerghatta Road falls apart

## Broken stretch takes toll on commuters

**ASHWIN BM**
BENGALURU, DHNS

For thousands of vehicle users traversing Bannerghatta Main Road daily, the 2.5-km stretch between Arakere and Vega City Mall has become a test of patience, spinal health and vehicle durability, with deep potholes, uneven surfaces and debris making every trip an ordeal.

A visit by this *DH* reporter revealed a classic case of administrative apathy and a lack of coordination between the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) and the Bengaluru South City Corporation (BSCC).

Commuters, especially scooter riders and auto drivers, described what it is like to travel on the road every day.

"Every day is a gamble. If you do not fall into a pothole, you are dodging a bus that's swerving to avoid one," said Venkatesh, an auto driver.

The 2.5-km stretch between Arakere and Vega City Mall has been lying in a shambles for months. DH PHOTO/ASHWIN BM

A delivery boy said: "The dust is blinding, and at night especially, you cannot see where the road ends and a trench begins. We pay road tax, but where is the road? It's just mud and stones."

Local business owners are equally frustrated. The owner of a medical shop near the stretch said dust and chaos were hurting businesses.

"People struggle to even park or walk into the shop. The dust is constant, and we see at least two or three minor two-wheeler skids every day. The authorities seem to be waiting for a major tragedy before they wake up," he said.

### Blame game

BSCC Chief Engineer KV Ravi said the BWSSB had laid pipes, but did not finish the work on time.

"I am being hounded with RTI queries, but what answer can I give? The BWSSB has laid pipes, but they are not finishing the work on time. We cannot restore the road until they are done," he told *DH*.

He alleged that the BWSSB's delay was causing public outrage to fall on the BSCC. "It is humiliating. Every time I check social media, it's full of posts about Bannerghatta Road. We have issued show-cause notices and demand notices, but there is no concern for public safety from their end. They cut the road at night and do not even inform us properly."

A BWSSB executive engineer cited technical hurdles and a recent internal reorganisation for the delay.

"We can only work at night, from 9 pm to 5 am, which limits our progress. We have encountered hard rock surfaces and existing underground cables that require careful handling," the official said. "Recently, the zones were reorganised under the South Zone chief engineer. This transition in the last 10 days has caused some coordination hurdles."

The official said work on the chambers would be completed in three days, after which restoration could begin.

In its 2026-27 budget, the BSCC announced development of Bannerghatta Road from Dairy Circle to NICE Road. The work will begin after the BWSSB and metro works are completed, officials said.

> "I am being hounded with RTI queries, but what answer can I give? The BWSSB has laid pipes, but they are not finishing the work on time. We cannot restore the road until they are done. It is humiliating. Every time I check social media, it's full of posts about Bannerghatta Road. We have issued show-cause notices and demand notices, but there is no concern for public safety from their end. They cut the road at night and do not even inform us properly.
>
> **KV Ravi,**
> **Chief Engineer, Bengaluru South City Corporation**

> "We can only work at night, from 9 pm to 5 am, which limits our progress. We have encountered hard rock surfaces and existing underground cables that require careful handling. Recently, the zones were reorganised under the South Zone chief engineer. This transition in the last 10 days has caused some coordination hurdles.
>
> **BWSSB executive engineer**

## Revisit locked homes for full census coverage: North Corpn

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC) Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar has instructed census enumerators to revisit locked and vacant houses to ensure comprehensive coverage in the first phase of the House Listing and Household Census for Census 2027.

He said the exercise must be completed by May 15.

"In this regard, special 'Mop-Up Round' operations are being conducted every evening and on holidays to revisit locked and vacant houses and ensure that no household is left out of the census process," he said.

The BNCC said the special re-verification drive has significantly improved overall census coverage.

"Efforts are being made to ensure 100% completion of the first phase of house listing and household census operations," it added.

## UPI-like app to locate EV charging stations launches today

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Union Minister for Heavy Industries HD Kumaraswamy will launch the National Unified EV Charging Application — Unified Bharat e-Charge (UBC) — in the city on Tuesday. The first-of-its-kind integrated digital platform aims to enable seamless access to EV charging services across India.

The app will be launched at a high-level national conference organised by the Ministry of Heavy Industries on 'Enabling Nationwide EV Charging Infrastructure' under the PM E-DRIVE scheme.

According to the ministry, the app marks a significant milestone in India's electric mobility journey as it will allow EV users to locate charging stations, access charging networks across operators, and make seamless digital payments through a single interface.

Developed through a collaborative effort between the ministry, NBSL and Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited, the app is envisioned as a transformational initiative for the EV ecosystem, similar to the role played by Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in revolutionising digital payments in India, the ministry said.

## Fire kills two toddler siblings in Kothanur labour shed

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Two siblings, aged 5 and 3, died after a fire broke out in a labour shed in northeastern Bengaluru's Kothanur on Monday.

The children, Arjun and Asha, were left with their grandmother after their parents left for work around 9 am.

When the grandmother stepped out briefly, reportedly to use the toilet, the children entered one of the empty sheds to play, as they did regularly.

"Suddenly, a fire broke out in the shed. We suspect they were asphyxiated and then sustained burns. One child died on the spot, and the other was declared dead at the hospital," a police investigator told *DH*.

Police received an alert around 2 pm. By the time police reached the spot, the children were already dead.

"Scene of Crime Officers (SOCO) along with Bescom officials inspected the scene. Many clothes were burnt in the fire, causing smoke. The cause of the fire is yet to be known," the investigator said.

Police are awaiting a formal complaint to register a case and launch an investigation.

The parents are from Raichur's Devadurga taluk and moved to Bengaluru four months ago for labour work.

## Nagarabhavi hotel blaze: 5 workers rescued

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Patrol officers from the Kamakshipalya police station rescued five hotel workers trapped in a fire at Durgashree Hotel in Nagarabhavi in the early hours of Friday.

Police said the fire was noticed around 1.52 am on May 9.

Hoysala-86 personnel attached to Kamakshipalya police station, ASI HB Kumar and constable Yallalinga were dispatched after 112 was called. They reached the spot within 11 minutes. Dense smoke had engulfed parts of the building, making it difficult for the workers to escape. The Hoysala team, with help from locals, rescued all five workers.

"Without waiting for an ambulance, the rescued workers were shifted in the Hoysala vehicle to the nearby hospital and provided timely medical treatment. Later, with assistance from the Fire and Emergency Services personnel, the fire was brought under control, preventing further damage and danger," city police said in a statement.

## FRUIT FIX

HOPCOMS outlets near Cubbon Park see brisk sales of fresh fruit juice amid soaring temperatures. DH PHOTO/KISHOR KUMAR BOLAR

## BDA's Guinness bid: 15 lakh saplings on June 5

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has set its sights on a Guinness World Record by planting 15 lakh native saplings on World Environment Day on June 5.

It has initiated talks with multinational companies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and educational institutions for collaboration.

Speaking to *DH*, BDA Chairman NA Haris said the exercise could go on for 10 days, but the lion's share of the saplings would be planted on June 5.

"We are looking to mobilise anywhere between 50,000 and 80,000 volunteers," he said, adding that invites have been sent to schools, colleges, NGOs and volunteers.

"The saplings will not just be planted in the layouts developed by the BDA, but other areas will be covered as well."

Haris said the BDA would bear a significant chunk of the cost. "We are also talking to companies for support under corporate social responsibility (CSR) funds. The process of procuring saplings is on."

Officials said the idea of planting saplings in large numbers was mooted in the context of rising temperatures and the Urban Heat Island (UHI) effect being experienced across Bengaluru.

## LED lamps to replace conventional streetlights in North Bengaluru

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Conventional streetlights in northern Bengaluru will soon be replaced with LED lamps, as the Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC) has handed over the installation and maintenance works to new agencies.

The project to replace conventional streetlights with energy-efficient LED lamps and implement power-saving measures is being carried out across the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) limits.

The BNCC has cancelled the previous maintenance contracts.

"The works are being executed under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model with government approval. In this regard, the existing streetlight maintenance contracts in all wards under the Bengaluru North City Corporation limits, except wards 34, 35 and 36 of the Rajarajeshwari Nagar Assembly constituency, have been cancelled with effect from April 30, 2026, and responsibility has been assigned to new maintenance agencies," the BNCC said in a statement.

The agencies installing the LED streetlights will also handle maintenance works.

Citizens can directly contact the respective agencies and raise complaints with managers regarding streetlight-related grievances, it added.

**To register complaints**

**Byatarayanapura and Yelahanka:** Karthik-9900405008

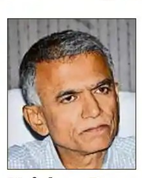
**Pulakeshinagar, Sarvagnanagar and Hebbal:** Shivaranchini/Vidya-7824015785, 7824015781

**Dasarahalli:** Manjula/Ranganath - 8951567132/9611899159

**Complaints can also be lodged through the Sahaaya App 2.0, toll-free number 1533, and WhatsApp number 948068570.**

## Hebbal Lake wetland to be ready in a month, says KBG

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Revenue Minister and Byatarayanapura MLA Krishna Byre Gowda inspected Hebbal Lake on Monday to review the rejuvenation work taken up by the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), urging officials to complete the first phase by June-end.



Krishna Byre Gowda

The lake redevelopment is being carried out at a cost of Rs 20 crore, funded under the National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF).

"The wetland will be ready in a month," the minister told *DH*, adding that increasing the water-holding capacity in the lake and wetland areas is central to the rejuvenation.

"The first phase of de-silting will be ready more or less by June-end. I have urged the GBA to release additional funds for the lake's comprehensive development," he said.

There is also a plan to plant thousands of trees in the lake's buffer areas, he said.

### Nagawara Lake revival

The GBA has also sanctioned Rs 20 crore for the rejuvenation of Nagawara Lake, which is part of the same valley system.

**CYBER CON**

## Elderly couple duped of Rs 1.58 cr in fake stock scam

**PRAJWAL D'SOUZA**
BENGALURU, DHNS

A 74-year-old Sahakar Nagar resident and his wife lost Rs 1.58 crore after cybercriminals, posing as representatives of stock brokerage 5Paisa, lured him into a fake investment scheme on WhatsApp.

The unidentified cybercriminals contacted the victim on WhatsApp, added him to groups where members, most likely their proxies, shared success stories and screenshots of earnings.

He was then shown a dashboard with daily stock market updates, investment status and gains. Unknown to him, it was a manipulated platform used to mislead victims, police said.

The suspects also shared ledgers showing investments and gains, leading him to trust them.

Between February 16 and April 24, the senior citizen transferred Rs 1,58,75,000 from his and his wife's bank accounts to several accounts shared by the cybercriminals.

"All this time, the victim believed his investments were making returns as he saw the gains in the dashboard," a police officer said.

When he tried to withdraw his money, the scammers refused and demanded more in the form of taxes and other charges.

Realising he had been cheated, he approached the police. The Northeast CEN police registered an FIR and launched a probe.

### Karnataka reports 783 fraud cases

**Police data reviewed by DH shows 783 cases of fake investment fraud were registered in Karnataka in the first three months of 2026, including 223 in March alone.**

**"This is becoming a very common modus operandi, driven by greed. The public should be careful not to believe such schemes and investment opportunities. No reputed broker shares tips and conducts business on WhatsApp groups," the officer said.**

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The Power of Good

# AIADMK MLAs revolt against EPS; want to back TVK

Page 9

**World** P.11

**Turkish Airlines plane catches fire while landing in Kathmandu, all safe**

**World** P.11

**3 Hantavirus cases detected after evacuation**

**Nation**

Vijay visits Stalin, Udhaya P.9

**State**

Leopard attack: Pilgrims allege apathy P.4

## Quickly

### 'Raj NEET paper leak': Probe begins

Rajasthan's Special Operations Group (SOG) is investigating the NEET-UG after it was alleged that a handwritten 'guess paper' with 300 questions was supposedly being circulated just before the exam on May 1. Out of the 300 questions, 140 matched the final questions word-to-word. Sources said the 'guess paper' was sold at Rs 5 lakh.

Details on Page 10

### SIR in charge is new Bengal chief secy

West Bengal's Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Manoj Agarwal was appointed the chief secretary of the Suvendu Adhikari-led BJP government, according to an official order issued on Monday. Agarwal, a 1990-batch IAS officer of the West Bengal cadre, helmed the SIR exercise in the state in the run-up to the assembly polls.

Details on Page 8

### Polls: SC allows Mamata, others to file pleas

The Supreme Court on Monday said former West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee and others can file fresh applications regarding their claim that the victory margins in 31 constituencies were less than the deletion of votes during SIR. Mamata had contended that one candidate lost by 862 votes in a constituency where over 5,432 persons were removed from the rolls.

### NIA to probe gelatin sticks on PM route

A NIA team left Delhi for Bengaluru on Monday to join the investigation into the two gelatin sticks found on the route of PM Narendra Modi's convoy on the city's outskirts Sunday. It will assist local police in the probe, officials said. The PM was in the city to participate in the 75-year celebrations of The Art of Living.

Details on Page 3

### Cong summons more Kerala leaders to Delhi

Congress leaders from Kerala, including former Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee presidents, have been summoned to Delhi for consultations on the chief minister's selection. The contenders to the post are KC Venugopal, VD Satheesan and Ramesh Chennithala. The delay in naming a CM has triggered resentment.

Details on Page 9

# PM austerity pitch spooks markets, rupee plunges

**Modi comment seen as admission of brewing crises**

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

**PROTRACTED WAR TAKES A TOLL ON THE ECONOMY**

Uncertainty over the war in the Gulf and PM Narendra Modi's austerity appeal dent market sentiments

**PM repeats thrift call**

PM Narendra Modi on Monday reiterated his appeal to avoid activities that involve spending foreign currency, describing the West Asia conflict as one of the biggest crises of the decade. P9

Cut in consumption, austerity measures to drag GDP growth

**Oil marketing companies** estimated to incur ₹1,600 cr to ₹1,700 cr loss every day

Current account deficit likely to widen to 2.4%

Fiscal deficit likely to be higher than budgetary target of 4.3%

Diesel, petrol price hike likely this week

**10%** rise in oil price to push up inflation by 0.5 percentage points

**WHY CAD MATTERS**

**Forex Reserves** The government may use forex reserves to fill the gap. If the reserves dip it will make investors nervous

**Rupee** High outgo leads to weakening in rupee. This makes imports further expensive, creating a nasty cycle

**Inflation** The cost of imported fuel and raw materials goes up due to the weak rupee. Companies then pass these costs to customers leading to inflation

The rupee dropped to a new low and stock markets slumped, wiping out over Rs 6 lakh crore from the capitalisation of listed entities on Monday, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal to people to cut gold, fuel, fertiliser and discretionary spending to conserve foreign exchange sparked concern over the economy and currency stability.

The rupee weakened by 82 paise to settle at a record low of 95.31 against the US dollar.

The benchmark Sensex of the BSE tanked 1,312.91 points, while Nifty 50 slumped 360.30 points. In the last three trading sessions, the Sensex cumulatively lost 2.5% and the Nifty 2.1%.

While the rupee and the stock markets have been under pressure since the beginning of the US-Israel-Iran conflict on February 28, Modi's comment sparked concern about the balance of payment challenges and stress in the economy.

Japanese financial services firm Nomura said the prime minister's austerity appeal is a signal that India's fiscal position is reaching a "tipping point".

In a note to its clients, Nomura projected that India's current account deficit (CAD) would widen to 2.4% of GDP in FY27. On the fiscal deficit, it said it would rise to 4.6% of GDP, higher than the budgetary target of 4.3%.

Nomura said the PM's remarks indicate that the government may increasingly look to households to share the burden of elevated energy prices.

The immediate impact could be in the form of increase in petrol and diesel prices. Sources said retail prices of diesel and petrol are likely to be hiked by the end of this week.

High outgo on oil and gold imports and weakening rupee are the key factors behind the widening in CAD. This simply means that the country is spending more foreign currency abroad than it is earning.

According to the latest Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data, India's current account deficit stood at $30.1 billion or 1% of GDP in the April-December 2025 period.

Addressing an event in Telangana on Sunday, Modi urged people to revive work-from-home practices, avoid buying gold and non-essential foreign travel, cut fuel consumption and discretionary spending to help the country save foreign exchange.

Jateen Trivedi, a vice president at LKP Securities said the PM's comment has "raised concerns about the pressure of a higher import bill on India's economy and currency stability".

"While the government's message was aimed at promoting long-term self-reliance and reducing unnecessary imports, the immediate market reaction remained cautious, which weighed on sentiment in the currency market," Trivedi said.

Crude oil, gold, vegetable oil and fertilisers accounted for nearly one-third of the country's total import bill of around $775 billion recorded in 2025-26.

▸ Modi, Page 4

Can austerity ease economic stress? Page 6

Oppn dubs Modi's appeal 'proof of failure', Page 9

### Refiners see Rs 5 fuel rate hike

**Refiners are expecting a modest increase in retail fuel prices within days, as the government seeks to balance the impact of the ten-week war in the Persian Gulf and the needs of consumers. Processors anticipate a hike of about Rs 5 a litre for diesel and petrol.**

# Govt, SEC seek 3 months to conduct GBA polls

**Cite staff shortage due to Census, SIR of electoral rolls**

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Karnataka government and the State Election Commission (SEC) on Monday urged the Supreme Court to grant three months from June 30 (the deadline set by the court) for conducting the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) elections.

In separate applications, both the state government and the SEC sought time until September 30, citing a severe strain on staff due to the census, Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, Class X and XII board examinations, and other factors.

They sought modification of the apex court's January 12 order, which had directed the conduct of the polls by June 30.

In its plea, the SEC said it has taken proactive steps to conclude the elections as directed by this court.

The SEC said it can conduct the polls only with the assistance of the state government. However, due to the deployment of officials for conducting census and SIR of electoral rolls, the required manpower and logistics may not be available to conduct the polls by June 30, it said.

Earlier, the SEC had said it has no funds or staff of its own to complete the exercise.

In its plea, the state government said that it is not seeking an extension due to financial constraints.

"Rather, the extension is necessitated by a severe lack of manpower, as the entire administrative and field-level machinery is currently deployed for statutory census activities, the SIR of electoral rolls, and the conduct of board examinations. Granting this extension will ensure proper completion of these statutory obligations and adequate election preparedness," it said.

The government further said it has diligently completed all its responsibilities, including the publication of final ward reservation notifications, without affecting the election process.

**ANALYSIS**

### Tug-of-war casts shadow

**Is the political tug-of-war within the Congress behind the uncertainty over the GBA polls? A late-night meeting between CM Siddaramaiah, Deputy CM Shivakumar and Randeep Singh Surjewala on Sunday triggered speculation over differences within the party regarding the timing of the civic polls.** P3

# Cong's Rajegowda stays Sringeri MLA for now: SC

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Monday ordered that Congress leader T D Rajegowda will remain as MLA of Sringeri constituency for now after a recent recount of paper ballots had led to BJP candidate D Jeevaraj being declared the winner.

The top court directed for maintaining status quo in the matter, which resulted in the ouster of the Congress leader as the MLA and Jeevaraj being administered oath, saying democracy can't be hijacked like this.

I am happy that the SC has restored my Assembly membership. I am happy that justice has been served

RAJEGOWDA
Congress leader

A bench of Justices Sanjay Kumar and K Vinod Chandran directed keeping in abeyance the steps taken following the Karnataka High Court's order of April 6 and restored status of Rajegowda as the MLA.

Reacting to the development, Rajegowda said justice has prevailed. "I am happy that the SC has restored my Assembly membership. I am happy that justice has been served," he said.

In the 2023 Assembly elections, Rajegowda had originally defeated Jeevaraj by a slender margin of 201 votes.

▸ Sringeri MLA, Page 5

# Vinesh shows up in Gonda, refuses to bow down to WFI

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Decorated wrestler Vinesh Phogat on Monday sprung a surprise by showing up in Gonda, UP — the venue for the National Open Ranking tournament — two days after the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) served her a show-cause notice while putting her return from retirement on hold.

Vinesh Phogat

The episode adds to the prolonged battle between Vinesh and WFI as the defiant wrestler met the officials at the venue and argued for her inclusion in the 57kg women's freestyle event ahead of the weigh-in for the event on Monday afternoon.

Sanjay Singh-led WFI, however, turned down the 31-year-old wrestler's request, stating that she will only be granted permission to compete after she submits documents verifying her arguments on allegations levelled at her. The allegations included violations of the United World Wrestling and World Anti-Doping Agency's rules on return from retirement, disqualification at Paris Olympics and prior 'unsportman-like conduct' at the Olympic trials.

Right after she met with WFI, Vinesh rejected all the claims, calling it a "preplanned conspiracy" to stop her from competing.

▸ Vinesh, Page 5

**WINGED VISITORS**

A flock of migratory flamingos seen at the NRI Complex Pond in Nerul in Navi Mumbai on Monday. PTI

# Iran proposal 'stupid', ceasefire on 'life support': Trump

WASHINGTON, AGENCIES

President Donald Trump said on Monday that the ceasefire with Iran was "on life support," after dismissing Tehran's response to a US peace proposal as "stupid."

Trump's swift rejection of Iran's response on Sunday has fueled concerns that the 10-week-old conflict will drag on and continue to paralyse shipping through the Strait of Hormuz.

"I would call it the weakest right now, after reading that piece of garbage they sent us, I didn't even finish reading it," Trump said of the ceasefire. "It's on life support."

"They think that I'll get tired of this, or I'll get bored, or I'll have some pressure, but there's no pressure, there's no pressure at all. We're going to have a complete victory," Trump said.

Days after Washington floated a proposal aimed at reopening negotiations, Iran on Sunday released a response focused on ending the war on all fronts, including Lebanon, where US ally Israel is fighting Iran-backed Hezbollah militants.

A vessel seen in the Gulf, off the coast of Sharjah. AFP

Tehran also demanded compensation for war damage, emphasised its sovereignty over the Strait of Hormuz, and called on the US to end its naval blockade, guarantee no further attacks, lift sanctions and remove a ban on Iranian oil sales.

On Monday, Trump also claimed Iran is willing to give the US "the nuclear dust", referring to Iran's enriched uranium stockpile, and said only China and the US have the capability to retrieve it. Trump also said that he will reduce the federal gas tax, seeking to blunt the impact of rising prices.

US-Iran stalemate deepens energy concerns, Page 11

**MODEL SHIFT**

# New excise policy: Local liquor may get pricier

ASHWIN BM
BENGALURU, DHNS

The state government on Monday rolled out the new excise policy that shifts from the decades-old bulk litre-based system to one pegged on the alcohol content in beverages.

Karnataka becomes the first state in India to adopt this model but the change is set to make cheap liquor pricier even as premium brands get a price cut.

A senior Excise Department official said: "The policy is being implemented from today (May 11). The Karnataka Excise (Excise Duty and Charges) (2nd Amendment) Rules, 2026, notified after a public consultation on a draft released on April 18, slashes the number of excise slabs from 16 to 8."

However, local liquor manufacturers alleged it is designed to favour MNCs manufacturing beer and spirits at the cost of homegrown distilleries. While premium and imported labels from giants like Diageo, Pernod Ricard, United Spirits, Bacardi, Heineken and Carlsberg could see prices drop by 16-20%, budget options especially popular 180 ml tetra packs of whisky, rum, brandy, gin and vodka face hikes of 20-30%.

**Excise taxation (Rupees)**

| SLAB | Old ED + AED* (Additional Excise Duty) | New ED + AED (42.80%) |
|---|---|---|
| SLAB 1 | 2,998 | 3,882 |
| SLAB 2 | 3,602 | 4,511 |
| SLAB 3 | 4,415 | 5,639 |
| SLAB 4 | 5,209 | 6,471 |
| SLAB 5 | 5,788 | 6,841 |
| SLAB 6 | 9,180 | 8,085 |
| SLAB 7 | 14,850 | 10,395 |
| SLAB 8 | 23,850 | 18,095 |

According to the Karnataka Brewers and Distillers Association (KBDA), the first five slabs — which cater to the common man, house the maximum number of state-owned distilleries and contribute nearly 70-75% of the state's excise revenue — have seen their Additional Excise Duty (AED) rise by 20-30%.

In contrast, slabs 6-8 — covering alcoholic beverages manufactured by MNCs United Spirits, Bacardi, Heineken, Carlsberg and Anheuser Busch — have seen their AED decrease by 10-15%. As a result, they are expected to emerge as the primary beneficiaries of these changes. The association said that while larger companies can absorb pricing shifts across their diverse portfolios, smaller regional distilleries limited to budget liquor may face volume contraction and potential closure.

A senior member of KBDA noted that last year, a 180 ml (quarter) bottle in the starting slab cost Rs 63. Following an immediate hike to Rs 80, the new policy is set to push that price further to Rs 105 a jump driven by a 42.8% tax bracket.

▸ Alcohol, Page 4

### Excise reforms feedback

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah sought a feedback on excise reforms. "From road accidents and domestic violence to liver disease, alcohol use disorders and loss of household income, the impact of alcohol misuse is significant. The government believes these reforms will encourage a shift towards lower-strength alcoholic beverages," he wrote on X. Share feedback on https://www.civis.vote/consultations/1524/read or sending a WhatsApp message with the keyword "karnatakaexcise" to +91 8976926914.

### G RAM G Act to kick in from July 1

**NEW DELHI, DHNS:** The Union government on Monday announced that the Viksit Bharat — Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act will come into force across the country from July 1, replacing the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).

The new law, referred to as the VB-G RAM G Act, provides for 125 days of guaranteed wage employment to rural households in a financial year, compared to 100 days under the existing MGNREGA.

Details on Page 9

# India's farming needs hi-tech agronomic interventions

**Technology, stronger partnerships across the food value chain and innovations in farming will ensure both food and energy security for India in the light of a growing population and net sown area remaining stagnant**

A farmer monitors his Direct Seeded Rice Field

As India pursues its development agenda, food security should be one of the key areas of focus. India's population growth might outpace its food production. A UN report in 2024 estimated that India's population could touch 1.70 billion by the year 2061. A paper by Monash University suggests that crop production in 2050 would need to be almost 56 per cent higher than the 2010 level to sustain the growing population.

However, the net-sown area in the country has remained almost unchanged since the 1960s. And assuming this doesn't change in the future, an increase in production is only possible if we improve crop yields by adopting technology and modern, sustainable farming practices.

According to Simon Wiebusch, Country Divisional Head (India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka), Crop Science Division, Bayer, "The future of Indian agriculture will be shaped by wider access to modern technology and stronger partnerships across the food value chain for Indian farmers. Innovations such as the use of drones in agriculture, satellite-based digital advisory services, improved seeds and sustainable farming practices can help farmers make more informed decisions, improve yields and enhance productivity and incomes. Bayer remains committed to supporting India's smallholder farmers in building a more resilient, productive and future-ready agriculture ecosystem."

### Climate-resilient varieties

Climate change directly impacts agricultural productivity. In a recent study, researchers at Monash University estimated that a 20 per cent reduction in rainfall and a one-degree Celsius rise in temperature could reduce the all-crop national average yield by 8.20 per cent and 7.80 per cent respectively. The sector should therefore be climate-resilient.

Let's take the example of rice – a crop that needs large amounts of water by conventional farming methods. India has the largest area under rice cultivation among all countries. However, we have seen increasingly frequent and severe heatwaves and droughts, along with a worsening of water scarcity. This puts the crop yield at risk.

Rice has a significant carbon footprint. Conventional rice cultivation, which involves the continuous flooding of the fields, accounts for 8-10 per cent of global methane emissions. Methane emissions can be reduced, and crop yields can be insulated from climate change, by switching to Direct Seeded Rice (DSR) cultivation. DSR varieties are climate-resilient and can be sown directly in the soil, as opposed to the conventional method of transplanting seedlings from a nursery.

### Spraying with drones

Farmers spend hours every day, spraying crop protection solutions and liquid fertilizers from a heavy backpack container. Drones can perform the same task more accurately, in much quicker time, with less water consumption. Drones equipped with special imaging technology can provide information about plant health and reveal early signs of the effects of pests, disease or soil moisture content.

### Apps aid in farming decisions

Today, farmers are faced with a complex landscape of unpredictable weather patterns, market demands and farming-related policies and regulations. Digital apps like Alivio and FarmRise by Bayer use real time data and images to aid farmers in their choices in the pre- and post-harvest phases providing them insights into seeds and crop protection products, agronomic advisory and helping farmers in also discovering relevant market prices. It enables them to optimise soil inputs, reduce costs and find time for investing in other productive activities. In-field soil sensors can monitor soil conditions such as moisture and nutrient levels. Using geo-location, these sensors identify the precise areas for application, thereby optimising the use of water and crop inputs.

DH Bayer India

### 'Collectivization' approach

Almost 85 per cent of India's agriculture sector is made up of small and marginal farmers. Small plots make mechanization difficult. This challenge is being addressed by adopting a farm 'collectivization' approach, where farmers pool their resources.

Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) are one of the most effective forms of such collectives. They give farmers better bargaining power and create a more transparent market. FPOs also make it easier to access bank loans, government subsidies and risk-mitigation schemes. Through government initiatives and efforts of private sector companies like Bayer, around 5,000 FPOs are operating successfully in the country today. Bayer has not only helped to set up many FPOs across the country but also supports them through capacity building modules and training on new technologies as well as sustainable agriculture practices and facilitating market linkages through food value chain partnerships.

### Better Life Farming Centers

Another key driver in the adoption of modern agronomic interventions has been initiatives like Better Life Farming, a multi-stakeholder collaboration involving Bayer, International Finance Corporation, Netafim, Yara and other partners. The Better Life Farming Centers help create rural micro-entrepreneurs who in turn support up to 1,000 farmers in their vicinity.

### Agriculture can strengthen energy security

Amid a volatile geopolitical environment where energy supply chains can be disrupted unexpectedly, agriculture can enhance the nation's energy security through the production of corn-based ethanol. By growing corn varieties with high starch content and establishing a robust system for backward integration, we can ensure a steady high-quality supply of raw material for the bioethanol sector.

It is time to drive a transformative change in the agriculture sector in India. The government and the private sector, together, have all the right tools to do it.

Curated by DH Brandspot

# PM promotes carpooling, but ecosystem falters in B'luru

## Operations hit due to uncertainty about legality of carpooling

**ASRA MAVAD**
BENGALURU, DHNS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent appeal to save fuel by opting for public transport and carpooling options has brought focus on Bengaluru's carpooling ecosystem, which is struggling to stay afloat.

After the Transport Department announced a brief ban on carpooling in 2023 (which was soon reversed), the industry is yet to recover from the move, say insiders.

The department had initially mulled a ban, citing safety concerns and the use of unverified whiteboard vehicles. However, it was instead decided that the department would frame guidelines for carpooling operations in the state.

More than two years later, the guidelines have not yet been announced.

"There is a big grey area which the government is yet to address, and this is impacting our business every day. Now, there is a public perception that carpooling is illegal, which is not the case. Companies, like Wipro, which would earlier promote carpooling among employees, have completely pulled back. Companies ask us to share government documents, which the government itself doesn't provide," said K N M Rao, founder and CEO of Quick Ride, which offers both taxi and carpooling services.

Currently, Quick Ride gets an average of 20,000 bookings per day on peak days, which are Tuesdays and Thursdays, when the corporate crowd heads to offices.

"This is one-third of our pre-Covid bookings. Although many more people still want to use the services, they are apprehensive," he added.

He urged large-scale IT companies and tech parks to resume promoting the habit of carpooling. "It is the best solution for Bengaluru's traffic problems, especially in key areas like the Outer Ring Road (ORR). With the right push, we can reduce one lakh cars from city roads every day," he added.

The grey area has led to a shrinkage in carpooling avenues, quipped commuters. "I used to sometimes use an app called Go Pool when I had to go to the airport. It was cost-effective and convenient. It would put me in touch with other travellers at the same time, and we could split the cost. But the last few times I checked, the app wasn't functioning. It seems to have shut down," said Abhishek Menon, a 28-year-old IT professional.

When *DH* attempted to log onto the app, it showed multiple errors.

In an attempt to revive the carpooling culture, Rapido has launched an 'Auto Seat Share' feature in some parts of Bengaluru on a pilot basis.

"This is currently in the pilot stage. Product and Ops are working to drive adoption of sharing behaviours in Bengaluru. We are currently live on select routes with a refined pricing model designed to provide better earnings for captains and better savings for users, especially during stressful times, having unpredictable supply acceptance behaviour," a Rapido spokesperson said.

### Centre must frame guidelines: Minister

**"We have neither called for a ban nor disturbed the operations of carpooling platforms in any way. We haven't meddled with how they function. Regarding the guidelines, the Centre must take the initiative to form guidelines and set norms in place. So far, it is unheard of for any state to have such guidelines," Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy told DH.**

## ◆ IN THE CITY ◆

**GENERAL**

**Dr Manmohan Singh Bangalore City University and Bangalore District Administration:** Awareness training on Children's Rights and POCSO Act; Inauguration: G Jagadish, Chairmanship: B Ramesh, Presence: CV Sneha, Naveen Joseph, Leena Kallammanavar; Jnanajyothi Hall, Central College premises; 10.30 am.

**A.G.S. Kalashri Public Charitable Trust:** Conclusion of 30th year summer camp; 'Krishna Thulabhara' Puppet Show; Nayana Auditorium, Kannada Bhavan, JC Road; from 4 pm onwards.

**CULTURAL**

**Nanjangud Raghavendra Swamy Mutt:** Bharatanatyam Performance; Students of Sadhana Dance School; Direction: Bhavana Shankar; Mutt premises, 11th Main Road, 5th Block, Jayanagar; 5.15 pm.

### ◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

**FORECAST**
Partly cloudy sky

**TEMPERATURES**

| | |
|---|---|
| Maximum | 35.0°C |
| Minimum | 23.0°C |
| Rainfall (as of 8:30 am) | NIL |
| Humidity (as of 5:30 pm) | 31% |
| Sunset (May 12) | 6:37 pm |
| Sunrise (May 13) | 5:55 am |
| Moonrise | 1:29 am |
| Moonset | 1:31 pm |

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

Invites to be published in this column should be sent to: **incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in**. Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

# ICF to supply 153 metro-type coaches for suburban rail

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai, will supply 153 metro-type coaches for Corridors 2 and 4 of the Bengaluru Suburban Transport Project (BSTP).

Bengaluru Integrated Rail Infrastructure Development Enterprise Limited (Bi-RIDE), which is implementing the project, issued the work order on May 6. The two entities will sign an MoU shortly, a news release said.

BSTP was earlier called the Bengaluru Suburban Railway Project (BSRP).

As per the Rs 1,513.75-crore contract , the ICF will start supplying the 153 air-conditioned coaches within 18 months so that the Chikkabanavar-Yeshwantpur section of Corridor 2 can open on schedule. The coaches will be powered by 25kV overhead traction, similar to Indian Railway rakes, and will also deploy on Corridor 4.

Bi-RIDE aims to open the 25.01-km Corridor 2, which will connect Chikkabanavar to Baiyappanahalli, by December 2028. The deadline for Corridor 4, which will link Heelalige to Rajanukunte (46.88 km), is June 2029.

Laxman Singh, Managing Director, Bi-RIDE, said: "Through this partnership with ICF, we are ensuring that the required coaches will be available by the time the track and systems infrastructure work for Corridors 2 and 4 is completed."

Bi-RIDE had floated tenders to lease 306 coaches under public-private partnership (PPP) but none of the three companies (BEML, BHEL and CAF India) that qualified in the technical round submitted financial bids as neither the state nor the railways was ready to provide a sovereign bank guarantee to cover costs if the project failed to generate enough revenue on its own.

Following instructions from the railways, Bi-RIDE decided to procure the coaches for Rs 4,270.30 crore, with the state and the railways sharing the cost equally. The state granted an exemption under Section 4(g) of the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements Act to procure the coaches without floating tenders.

# 'Inflated' garbage tender: Yatnal seeks probe

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Former union minister and BJP MLA Basangouda Patil Yatnal on Monday sought an investigation into the "irregularities, favouritism and suspected fraud" in the tenders pertaining to the integrated solid waste management project.

In his letters to Lokayukta Justice B S Patil and Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh, he alleged that a chief engineer was transferred during tendering in an attempt to favour a particular firm.

The project, he said, was envisaged for 25 years on a tipping fee basis and involves substantial public expenditure. "In the first detailed project report prepared by RITES Ltd, the tipping fee was estimated at Rs 1,398 per tonne for secondary transportation, processing and disposal. In the subsequent report by Boston Consulting Group, the tipping fee was significantly inflated, raising serious concerns," he said.

The letter also pointed out that the tender conditions were deliberately modified to favour a certain company headquartered in Hyderabad.

"The tendered rate exceeds the estimated value by more than 19%, which indicates a clear disregard for financial prudence and established norms," he alleged.

# Bengaluru hotels seek GST relief amid rising costs

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** The Bangalore Hotels' Association has urged Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to rationalise GST on hotel rooms and restaurant services, saying rising input costs are putting severe pressure on the hospitality sector.

The association proposed two options: retaining 5% GST on rooms and food services with input tax credit (ITC), similar to the benefit available for sweets and bakery items; or reducing GST from 18% to 5% on key expenses such as commercial LPG, building rent, and kitchen equipment, even without ITC.

"The sector employs lakhs of middle-class workers and supports farmers by sourcing vegetables, milk and fruits locally. We also provide free drinking water and restroom facilities to the public," the association said in a letter dated May 4. "We are among the largest employment generators for the middle class. Without ITC, our operating costs are skyrocketing," said association president PC Rao.

"We support the farming community by procuring large volumes of perishables and provide free public amenities. It is time the tax structure reflects this social contribution," he added.

Rao said LPG and rent account for nearly 40% of operating costs in the absence of GST relief. "A 5% rate would help us survive without passing the burden on to customers," he said.


**EASTERN RAILWAY**

The following E-tenders are invited by the Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/ (General), Eastern Railway, Sealdah, 2nd Floor, Remote Control Building, Eastern Railway, Kolkata-700014 in connection with the following works:- **Sl. No.1, Tender No.: ELEG-OT-1323-2026-27, Particulars of the work:** Improvement of existing various electrical general systems at circular railways with its associated areas of SSE/G/CP and SSE/G/SDAH-II. **Tender Value:** Rs. 41,09,618/-, **Earnest Money:** Rs. 82,200/-. **Sl. No.2, Tender No.: ELEG-OT-1326-2026-27, Particulars of the work:** Rolling in/out examination with huts with all facilities at 06 stations over Sealdah Division.(Locations- Sealdah Main, Budge Budge, Majerhat, Ranaghat, Naihati, Krishnapur excluding CP). **Tender Value:** Rs. 28,68,990/-. **Earnest Money:** Rs. 57,400/-. **Completion period:** 12 months (For Sl. No. 1 & 2) . **Tender Publication Date on IREPS:** 08.05.2026 (For each). **Bidding Start Date:** 15.05.2026 (For each). **Tender Closing Date & Time:** 29.05.2026 at 14:00 hrs. (For each). Details of Tender Notice and corrigendum issued from time to time are available at website **www.ireps.gov.in**.

SDAH-34/2026-27

**Tender Notices are also available at Website www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.in**

**Follow us at: @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter**



**CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ADVANCED COMPUTING**
(A premier research organization of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Govt. of India, carrying out R&D across a wide Spectrum of ICT thematic areas)
C-56/1- Anusandhan Bhawan, Scctor-62, Noida-201309

**WALK IN INTERVIEW**

C-DAC Noida is looking for technical experts on contractual basis to work on National Importance Projects. An opportunity to work to for e-Governance related projects in the following positions:-

| Walk in Dates | Name of the Position | Domain | No. of Positions |
|---|---|---|---|
| 23-05-2026 & 30-05-2026 (Saturday) | **Project Manager** (Minimum 9 year's experience) | **Project Management** (J2EE Domain) | 05 |
| | **Senior Project Engineer** (Minimum 4 Years' experience) | Developer (J2EE Domain | 10 |

Cadidates are requested to visit our website **www.cdac.in** for detailed notification, eligibility, remuneration and other terms and conditions. Interested and eligible candidates are requested to appear for Walk-in-Interview on the scheduled dates mentioned above.

**Venue:** Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Academic Block, B-30, Institutional Area, Sector-62, Noida Uttar Pradesh-201309.

**CBC 06130/12/0001/2627**

**Registration Timings - 10 am to 10 noon only**



**CENTRAL POWER RESEARCH INSTITUTE**
(A Govt. of India Society, Ministry of Power)
Bangalore - 560 080

**ADVERTISEMENT NO. CPRI /04/2026**

CPRI invites applications for one (1) project Manager **on purely temporary** basis interested candidates may refer website https://cpri.res.in for details regarding eligibility criteria, educational qualification etc.,

**Chief Administrative Officer**

**CBC 34104/11/0001/2627**



**SOUTHERN RAILWAY**

**SALEM DIVISION**

**E-TENDER NOTICE No. SA-E3-2026-27-W1-W3, Dated: 09.05.2026**

Divisional Railway Manager / Electrical / Salem Division, Salem - 5 for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tender for the under mentioned works. Online bids only will be accepted. For detailed NIT, qualification criteria, bidding document, tender submission etc., can be viewed / downloaded from website portal **www.ireps.gov.in**

| E-Tender Notice No, Date and Name of Work | Details |
|---|---|
| **1) SA-E3-2026-27-W1 Dated: 09.05.2026** Replacement of Air conditioner at Control Room and Meeting hall at Divisional Manager's Office at Salem. | **Approx. Cost - ₹ 68,99,818.00/- EMD - ₹ 1,38,000.00/- Completion Period - 6 Months** |
| **2) SA-E3-2026-27-W2 Dated: 09.05.2026** Salem Division - Provision of 12 Mtr FOB at Erode Railway station under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme - Electrical Arrangements. | **Approx. Cost - ₹ 29,61,560.00/- EMD - ₹ 59,200.00/- Completion Period - 6 Months** |
| **3) SA-E3-2026-27-W2 Dated: 09.05.2026** Salem Division - Energy Conservation Measures, Adoption of Smart Metering System for Service Building and Private Stalls. | **Approx. Cost - ₹ 59,58,303.00/- EMD - ₹ 1,19,200.00/- Completion Period - 6 Months** |
| **For all the works Closing Time & Date** | **15.00 hrs. on 01.06.2026** |
| **For all the works Bids Opening Time & Date** | **15.30 hrs. on 01.06.2026** |

All Addendum / Corrigendum, Time extension, Clarifications, etc. will be uploaded in the website portal **www.ireps.gov.in** only and will not be published separately in Newspapers. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated.

**Divisional Railway Manager (Electrical) / Salem**



**SOUTHERN RAILWAY**

**Chennai Division (Mechanical Branch)**

**GeM Bid No.: GEM/2026/B/7431472, Dated: 13.04.2026**
**Corrigendum No. 02 Dated: 07.05.2026**

Name of the Work: **Mechanized cleaning at Tambaram Railway Station on Manpower basis for 1461 Days and Tambaram Colony on outcome basis for 1253 Days.**

**Corrigendum: 02**

**(A) Bidders can pay EMD amount in the following account numbers:**

**BENEFICIARY NAME: Sr.DFM/MAS, SOUTHERN RAILWAY, PARK TOWN, CHENNAI - 600003**

**1. Account No. 0129103000004374 IDBI bank ltd. IFSC code: IBKL0000907**

**2. Account No. 1186402609 Central Bank of India IFSC code: CBINO280876**

**(B). Size of work force:**

| Sl.No. | Details | Existing | To be read as |
|---|---|---|---|
| 01 | Instruction to bidder uploaded in GeM Bid Document, in which Sl.No. 4 of clause 1.5.1.3 | Size of work force: The bidder must have a minimum number of personnel (as defined by Railway administration) on the organization's pay roll. Minimum required work force of this work is 34 no's. | **Size of work force: The bidder must have a minimum number of personnel (as defined by Railway administration) on the organization's pay roll. Minimum required work force of this work is 102 no's.** |

Tender closing date and time : **14.05.2026 at 17.00 Hrs.**
Tender opening date and time : **14.05.2026 at 17:30 Hrs.**

**Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer / Chennai**



**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given to General Public at large that my client have negotiated and decided to purchase the Property described in Schedule below from its lawful owners by names Mr.Aarav Deepak S/o Deepak Ramakrishna & Mrs.Megha.B.R, and Kumari Anhiti Deepak D/o S/o Deepak Ramakrishna & Mrs.Megha.B.R, since minor, she is represented by her mother and natural Guardian Mrs.Megha.B.R., who have assured my client that they are in possession of the said properties. They have further assured that they have a clear & marketable title and the said properties are free from all encumbrances & they have the full rights to sell the said properties.

We are investigating the title of the owner(s) of the captioned Schedule property. Any person having any right, title, interest, claim or demand whatsoever in respect of the said property by way of sale, inheritance, bequest, exchange, gift, possession, trust, mortgage, lease, license, lien, charge, tenancy, lis pendency, development rights, maintenance, easement or under any agreement of Sale or Power of Attorney, option, right of first refusal or pre-emption whatsoever or otherwise howsoever, is hereby required to make the same known in writing with documentary proof thereof, to the undersigned at the address mentioned herein below within 7 days from the date of the publication of this notice, failing which the sale transaction shall be completed without any reference to such right, title, interest, claim or demand or else any such claims by anyone shall not be considered and shall be deemed to have been waived and/or abandoned. Claims without documentary proofs and/ or objections directly published in Newspaper shall not be considered as valid.

**SCHEDULE OF THE PROPERTY**

**Schedule** : All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing Old No.4, New No.75, presently as pre-computerised E-Aasthi in Form-A the property bearing No.4-75, EPID No.1935341822, situated at K.R.Road, Basavangudi, Bengaluru, presently within the limits of BBMP, Measuring East to West 110Feet and North to South 60 Feet and Bounded on the:- **East by :** Sri.Krishnarajendra Main Road, **West by :** Conservancy, **North by :** D.C. Subbarayappa's Property, **South by :** Property Bearing No.74, in Occupation of Basavanagudi Branch of State. Bank of Mysore (Now SBI).

Sd/- **Manu. N.P,** Advocate
Office, No.9, Second Floor, Lingaraju Complex, Above Mr. DIY, Gandhi Bazaar Main Road, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru - 560004.
Cell 9036418257
Date: 11-05-2026 Place: Bengaluru



**S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER**

DRM/ENGG, South Eastern Railway, Chakradharpur acting for & on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders against Open Tender. Manual Offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. **Sl.No.**-1. **Tender Notice No.: CKP-CENTRAL-26-27-07, Date: 08.05.2026. Name of work:** Development of Barren land piece into multi utility space for staff residing in railway colony at Chakradharpur. **Tender Value:** ₹ 52,41,455.50. **EMD:** ₹ 1,04,800. **Sl.No.**-2. **Tender Notice No.: CKP-EAST-26-27-06, Date: 08.05.2026. Name of work:** Construction of LHS in lieu of existing manned level crossing No. 138 at Km 245/07-09 between section Asanboni-Salgajhari. **Tender Value:** ₹ 8,13,74,695.45. **EMD:** ₹ 16,27,500. **Sl.No.**-3. **Tender Notice No.: CKP-EAST-26-27-08, Date: 08.05.2026. Name of work:** Provision of standard height gauge for Level Crossings (20 Nos.) in Chakradharpur Division under the Jurisdiction of Sr. DEN(East)/ Chakradharpur. **Tender Value:** ₹ 2,65,07,447.85. **EMD:** ₹ 5,30,200. **Cost of Tender form:** ₹ 0 (for Sl.No. 1 to 3 each). **Date of Opening:** 05.06.2026 (for Sl.No. 1 to 3 each). The tender can be viewed at website **http://www.ireps.gov.in**. The tenderer/ bidders must have class-III Digital Signature Certificate & must be registered under on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering. All relevant paper must be uploaded at the time of participating in e-tendering. **Note:** e-Tender Forms shall be issued free of cost to all tenderers. (Authority– Railway Board's letter no. 2020/CE-I/CT/3E/GCC/Policy dtd. 16.07.2020). **(PR-153)**



**कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, लघु सिंचाई प्रमण्डल,चाईबासा**

**अल्पकालीन ई०–निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या–**
**WRD/MID/CHAIBASA/ SBD-01/2026-27(DMFT)(2nd Call)**

1. कार्य का नाम :–

| ग्रुप संख्या | योजना का नाम | जिला | प्रखण्ड | प्राक्कलित राशि (लाख में) | परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य (रूपये में) | अग्रधन की राशि (रूपये में) | कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 1. | कासिरा पंचायत के बोंगसिदरी डोबरोबासा सरकारी तालाब से सेरेंगबिल सरकारी तालाब तक लघु सिंचाई नाली का निर्माण। | पश्चिमी सिंहभूम। | तांतनगर | 328.608 | 10,000.00 | 328700.00 | 11 माह |

नोट :– केवल ई०–निविदा(Online Mode) ही स्वीकार होगा।

2. विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट WWW.jharkhandtenders.gov.in पर देखें।
3. बेवसाईट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि एवं समय :– 26.05.2026 के 11:00 बजे पूर्वाहन् से।
4. ई०–निविदा में भाग लेने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय :– 01.06.2026 अपराह्न 03:00 बजे तक।
5. ई०–निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :– 02.06.2026 को 05:00 बजे अपराह्न ।
6. परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य एवं अग्रधन की राशि सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी एवं ई–गवर्नेंस विभाग झारखण्ड मंत्रालय, धुर्वा, राँची के आदेश सह ज्ञापांक 120, दिनांक 03.10.2023 के अनुरूप (Online) प्राप्त की जायेगी।
7. निविदा आमंत्रित करनेवाले पदाधिकारी का नाम, पता , दूरभाष सं0 एवं ई0मेल आई डी0– कार्यपालक अभियंता , लघु सिंचाई प्रमण्डल, चाईबासा/9471742851 ई0मेल – eemidchaibasa@gmail.com, eemidchai-cemr-jhr@nic.in
8. निविदा के B.O.Q की राशि घट–बढ़ सकती है तदानुसार B.O.Q के मूल्य एवं अग्रधन की राशि में बदलाव होगा ।
9. प्राक्कलित राशि का 10 प्रतिशत से नीचे के दर से निविदित (Quoted rate is more than 10% below the schedule rate) के परिपेक्ष में पथ निर्माण विभाग झारखण्ड रॉची के पत्रांक 2146(S) दिनांक 09.09.2020 के शर्तावली के अनुसार अतिरिक्त जमानत की राशि एकारारनामा करने के समय जमा करना अनिवार्य होगा ।
10. निविदा निश्पादन Duuble Bid Envelope पद्धति से किया जाएगा Technical Bid में सफल निविदादाता का ही Financial Bid खोला जाएगा। उपायुक्त, पश्चिमी सिंहभूम का पत्रांक 1679, दिनांक 23.12.2022 के आलोक में निविदा डालने के समय चाईबासा जिलान्तर्गत किसी भी प्रमण्डल/विभाग द्वारा आवंटित कार्य एकारारित अवधि बीत जाने के बाद लंबित नही होने संबंधी शपथ–पत्र Affidavit देना होगा। निविदा के एक NIT में एक निबंधन पर दो से अधिक कार्य आवंटित नहीं किया जाएगा। वैसे संवेदक जो एकरारनामा में अंकित कार्य पूर्ण करने की तिथि तक योजनाओं का कार्य अधूरा रखे हुए हैं। उन्हें जिला अन्तर्गत चलने वाली किसी भी योजना में तब तक कार्य आबंटित नहीं किया जाएगा जब तक अपने पूर्व के कार्य को समाप्त न कर दें। जिला अन्तर्गत किसी भी विभाग का कार्य लम्बित होने की सूचना यदि इस कार्यालय को प्राप्त होती है तो संबंधित संवेदक को कार्य आवंटित नहीं किया जाएगा।
11- Technical Bid में Qualify करने वाले संवेदकों/फर्म का ही Financial Bid खोला जाएगा।
12. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि का ई०–भुगतान सम्बेदक द्वारा जिस बैंक खाता से किया जाएगा। उसी खाते में अग्रधन की राशि वापस होगी। अगर बैंक खाता को बन्द कर दिया जाता है तो उसकी सारी जवाबदेही सम्वेदक की होगी।
13. निविदा खोलने के की तिथि से 5 दिनों के अन्दर निविदादाता द्वारा अपनी आपत्ति/दावा दर्ज कराये अन्यथा अवधि बीतने के पश्चात् कोई भी आपत्ति/दावा मान्य नहीं होगा।
14. बिना कारण बताये किसी भी समय निविदा को रद्द करने का अधिकारी अधोहस्ताक्षरी को सुरक्षित रहेगा।

ह०/–
कार्यपालक अभियंता
लघु सिंचाई प्रमण्डल, चाईबासा

**PR 379482 West Singhbhum(26-27)#D**

## Can't stop people from buying gold, says Shivakumar

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Monday questioned the practicality of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal for fuel savings and postponement of gold purchases among other 'austerity' measures.

Shivakumar

"Modi doesn't say why gold prices have risen. He's asking people to reduce petrol consumption, but doesn't say why prices are hiked. Modi has to explain why people are facing trouble," Shivakumar told reporters.

"How can you tell those planning marriages and munji (upanayana or sacred thread ceremony) not to buy gold?" Shivakumar asked. He recalled Modi's appeals during the Covid-19 pandemic on lighting lamps. "Did it help in any way?" he wanted to know.

Dismissing the prime minister's advice as "impractical", Shivakumar said people cannot be stopped from buying gold.

"Can we say no to people who want to buy a gold (mangalsutra) or a chain for weddings? Such things cannot be done. People purchase gold for such events, even if it means borrowing loans for it," he said.

Shivakumar said Modi should first ask the Union ministers and officers to switch to public transport. "Let this (austerity) start from states where the BJP is in power, and from saffron party leaders and workers," he said.

# Cong's tug-of-war casts shadow on Bengaluru civic elections

## DKS camp saw 'ploy' in last week's poll schedule

**PRATHIMA NANDAKUMAR**
BENGALURU, DHNS

Is the political tug-of-war within the ruling Congress behind the uncertainty over the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) polls?

A late-night meeting between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister Shivakumar and AICC general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala on Sunday triggered speculation over differences within the Congress regarding the timing of the civic polls.

Elections to the five corporations under the GBA (previously Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike) have eluded Bengaluru since 2020, with the pandemic, delimitation, Assembly polls of 2023 and the reservation matrix cited at different stages. This time, the uncertainty is due to the shadow-boxing between Siddaramaiah and his deputy.

State election commissioner G S Sangreshi held a press conference last week, declaring that the state election commission was "poll ready" and indicating the possibility of holding GBA elections between June 14 and 24, only to do an U-turn of sorts, by way of an affidavit in the Supreme Court on Monday, seeking an additional three months' time.

The election announcement had surprised the Shivakumar camp, which suspects a "ploy" by the rival camp to defer discussion on the long-pending power transfer issue.

Also, the government had sought additional time before the Supreme Court, citing staff shortages arising from the ongoing census and the special intensive revision (SIR)-related exercise.

Siddaramaiah favours early polls, citing the Supreme Court's deadline of June 30. Shivakumar, also the KPCC chief and Bengaluru development minister, is wary of a rushed poll, as a poor performance would prove to be a major setback for his claim to the CM's post.

A S Ponnanna, legal advisor to CM, said, "The GBA polls issue is before the Supreme Court and we have to comply with the SC order. If elections are to be held, there should be adequate preparation and also staff. Bengaluru city is a special case with unique problems. We have to highlight all problems and find a legal remedy".

Amid public anger over bad roads, garbage mounds and poor infrastructure in Bengaluru, peak summer and water woes and the likelihood of the holiday season affecting voter turnout, the Shivakumar faction fears the worst.

Not to forget the reported anti-incumbency feeling against the government and BJP's aggressive campaign led by Ram Madhav, the party's incharge for Bengaluru civic polls.

"We will announce major guarantee schemes for Bengaluru on May 13," said Shivakumar, even as the government explores legalities to defer the elections.

Many leaders believe the GBA polls to be a political barometer ahead of the gram panchayat, taluk panchayat and zilla panchayat elections, and eventually the 2028 Assembly polls.

The Shivakumar camp alleges that Siddaramaiah's political ambition is overshadowing the party's larger interest at a time when a united organisation and clarity on leadership are seen as crucial to mobilising cadre and gaining public confidence.

# Crabs trapped in a basket: CM mocks BJP

## Hits out at PM over remarks on Cong's factional feud

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said Prime Minister Narendra Modi must fix problems in the BJP before criticising the Congress in Karnataka.

Siddaramaiah was reacting to Modi's speech on Sunday on the internal squabbles in Congress.

"The condition of the BJP in Karnataka has become like crabs trapped in a basket. They are pulling each other down and committing political harakiri. Within the party, half a dozen factions are opposing former chief minister B S Yediyurappa and his family," Siddaramaiah said in a statement.

"Though the leaders of these factions have made hundreds of allegations against Yediyurappa, the so-called leader with a 56-inch chest does not dare to take disciplinary action against them. The words of the state BJP president (B Y Vijayendra) have no value within his own party," Siddaramaiah charged.

"The condition of the Karnataka BJP has deteriorated to such an extent that it is now falling at the feet of leaders who are suspended by the party and bringing them back for election campaigning. Such people are now trying to preach to the Congress party," the chief minister alleged.

Siddaramaiah also pointed out that Karnataka's economy was strong.

**SIDDARAMAIAH**
Chief Minister

"Within the BJP, half a dozen factions are opposing former CM B S Yediyurappa and his family.

"While India's per capita income is Rs 2.11 lakh, Karnataka's per capita income is Rs 4.33 lakh. While India's GDP growth rate is 7.4%, Karnataka's GDP growth rate is 8.1%. Karnataka's share in the country's GDP is 9.19%. In GST collection too, Karnataka contributes the highest share after Maharashtra," he said.

"(Mr) Prime Minister, what more proof do you need that Karnataka is moving rapidly on the path of development?"

### Ashoka hits back

In a counterattack on Siddaramaiah, Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka said Modi's speech near the HAL airport on Sunday was a party event.

"The same Siddaramaiah who politicises even the budget speech, turns the governor's address into a Congress pamphlet, and attacks constitutional institutions daily, is now suddenly preaching parliamentary propriety. Very rich indeed," Ashoka said.

"Instead of getting rattled by Prime Minister Modi's words, you should answer the real questions troubling Karnataka: Why is your government paralysed by CM-chair bargaining? Why are Congress leaders openly fighting for power every day? Why has governance taken a backseat to factional politics?" Ashoka asked.

## Govt hikes DA for staff to 15.75%

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** The state government on Monday issued an order hiking dearness allowance (DA) for its employees from 14.25% to 15.75% of their basic pay. This will apply to pensioners, too.

The DA hike will be applicable from January 1, 2026, the finance department said in its order.

Ahead of the Deepavali festival in October last year, the government had hiked DA from 12.25% to 14.25% of their basic pay. There are over five lakh government employees, two lakh staff at various boards/corporations and 4.5 lakh pensioners in Karnataka.

## THE RIPE ONE

Former prime minister and Rajya Sabha member H D Deve Gowda checks a mango at the mango and jack fruit Mela at Cubbon Park in Bengaluru on Monday. He endorsed PM Narendra Modi's advice on limiting fuel use and avoiding unnecessary purchase of gold. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR

## 24 fishermen rescued as boat capsizes in sea

**KARWAR (UTTARA KANNADA DISTRICT), DHNS:** Twenty-four fishermen, who were in a boat that capsized near Bethul sea area in Goa on Sunday, have been rescued.

An eyewitness, also a fisherman, said, "A boat, named Sri Amma, which had left for deep-sea fishing a week ago from the Mudaga port, capsized in the sea. The fishermen aboard were rescued by the crews of other fishing boats. Unfortunately, the boat and the fishing nets have been lost." The ill-fated boat belongs to Dinesh Kanchan of Mudaga village in the taluk.

Fisheries Department Deputy Director Pratheek Shetty confirmed the incident and said the fishermen have been rescued.

A boat, belonging to a fisherman from Mudaga village in Karwar taluk, drowned in the sea near Bethul in Goa.

## Governor interacts with students from Rajasthan

**BENGALURU DHNS:** Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot on Monday interacted with the students from Rajasthan at Lok Bhavan who visited the state as part of the Yuva Sangama programme.

Thaawarchand Gehlot

Appreciating the programme, the governor said, "Such cultural and educational exchange programmes help to strengthen national integration by creating awareness about the social, cultural and developmental aspects of different states." During the interaction, he advised the youth to work with dedication and commitment to help the country reach greater heights on the global stage.

# Withdraw order on deputing lecturers to other colleges: PU teachers

BENGALURU, DHNS

**Guest faculties fear losing jobs, regulars feel it would lead to closure of government colleges**

The recent order by the Department of Pre University Education on deputing lecturers, who have less workload, to another college for three days in a week has met with opposition from both regular and guest faculties.

Guest lecturers fear losing their jobs, while regular faculties feel that this would lead to closure of government colleges. According to the lecturers, the department has calculated the student-teacher ratio unscientifically.

As per the order and instructions given to the principals, the department is calculating workload based on a 320:1 (student-teacher) ratio . "This is very unscientific. This ratio was fixed in 1995 when the number of colleges was less. Now, the number of colleges has increased and student strength has spread across the colleges," pointed out a lecturer working with a government PU college in Bengaluru.

"What will they do in case of single-lecturer colleges where the strength is less than 100?" the lecturers questioned the department.

"There are colleges with student strength of less than 100, as per the department's order lecturers working in those colleges will not have workload and will be shifted to another college. In such a case, what is the fate of those colleges?" asked another lecturer.

However, the guest lecturers are afraid of losing jobs. "As the department is deputing lecturers for three days to another college where there is workload, then it is understood that guest lecturers working in those colleges will lose jobs," said Rajesh Bhat, secretary of Government PU Colleges Guest Lecturers' Association.

**BHARATH S**
Director, Department of PU Education

"It is a routine departmental affair and nothing new. This was done even in 2025. We have asked for the workload details to know the requirement of guest lecturers for 2026-27 academic year.

The Association even demanded withdrawal of the order on deputation of lecturers based on workload. According to the association, at least 4,000 guest lecturers will lose jobs in this process.

Meanwhile, the director of the department held a meeting with the Karnataka State Pre University College Lecturers' Association on this on Monday and tried to clarify. But the association representatives said they were not convinced. "The student-teacher ratio should be calculated as per the present number of colleges and enrollment. 40:1 is the ideal ratio and we demand the government to consider it," said Ninge Gowda, president of the association.

## Homestays in and around Hampi inspected

**HOSAPETE (VIJAYANAGARA DISTRICT), DHNS:** Homestays operating in and around Hampi were inspected on Monday to ensure compliance with registration requirements prescribed by the Tourism Department. The inspection was led by Superintendent of Police S Jahnavi.

The inspection team, comprising Tahsildar Shruthi M M, Joint Director of Tourism Department Thippeswamy, Hampi World Heritage Area Management Authority Commissioner Ramesh Vatagal and In-charge Deputy Director D Nagaraj, directed the five homestays near the Hampi Gram Panchayat office to compulsorily register with the department.

The officials left the place only after the homestay operators assured them that they would follow the rules. The operators were also told not to open the homestays till they are registered.

Meanwhile, a department officer said that the district has only one registered homestay at Hosapete. As many as 132 homestays, being operated around Hampi, have not yet registered, he added.

## NIA joins probe after gelatin sticks found on PM's convoy route

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** A National Investigation Agency (NIA) team left Delhi for Bengaluru on Monday to join the investigation into the two gelatin sticks found on the route of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's convoy on the city's outskirts on Sunday.

It will assist local police in the probe, news agency ANI quoted officials as saying.

The prime minister was in the city to participate in the 45th anniversary of The Art of Living and the 70th birthday of its founder Sri Sri Ravi Shankar.

Kaggalipura police have filed an FIR under Section 4 (punishment for attempt to cause explosion, or for making or keeping explosive with intent to endanger life or property) of the Explosive Substances Act and Section 9B (punishment for certain offences) of the Explosives Act.

According to the FIR, Jagadish Doddamani, the constable who found the explosives, discovered a transparent plastic ziplock bag 20 feet from a mud road adjacent to the forest area close to Kanakapura Road in Sector-1A around 9.45 am.

Inside, there was a cardboard box covered in cellophane tape, six incense sticks, a matchbox and more tape.

Due to suspicions, senior officers asked the bomb squad to inspect and found gelatin sticks inside. The bomb squad inspected between 10.15 am and 10.50 am.

A separate detailed probe is underway by a DySP-ranked officer from the Bengaluru South district, senior officers said.

"A comprehensive investigation is underway as investigators examine the CCTV footage and contact registered and trace unregistered gelatin sellers in the area," the officer said.

## Jailer tries to stop quarrel, attacked by inmates

**JAMAKHANDI (BAGALKOT DIST), DHNS:** A jailer was attacked when he tried to stop a quarrel between inmates of the prison here on Sunday evening.

Jailer V D Kumbara was attacked by Zakeer Hussain Makandaara, Fayaz Makandaara, Ashok Naaykodi and Arfath Talikoti, serving sentences for smuggling rice earmarked for PDS.

Kumbara sustained a fracture in his left hand and other injuries. He is undergoing treatment.

## Energy crisis ups packaging costs: Spirits industry seeks price hike leeway

BENGALURU, DHNS

The International Spirits and Wines Association of India (ISWAI), the apex body of the premium alcoholic beverage sector, has uged Karnataka to allow a revision in prices, citing a structural increase in production costs triggered by the West Asia conflict.

ISWAI highlighted that the global energy and commodity crisis has led to an unprecedented spike in cost of glass, plastic and paper-based packaging, factors now threatening the sector's viability.

Sanjit Padhi, ISWAI CEO, said volatility in oil, gas and coal prices has left manufacturers with little room to absorb costs via operational efficiency.

"Key packaging materials like glass bottles, closures, labels and cartons have seen significant inflation in past 2 years. Since packaging constitutes nearly 50% of the cost of goods sold, these externally driven pressures are becoming impossible to manage within existing state-approved pricing structures," he said.

According to the association, glass bottles, the primary format for spirits, have seen price hikes of 11-17%, due to energy-intensive nature of manufacturing. Similarly, a 30% month-on-month spike in polyethylene prices in early 2026 translated into a 20% increase in cost of caps and closures.

Secondary packaging like cartons and paperboard essential for transport, recorded a 10-14% increase. Collectively, weighted average escalation across materials is estimated at 15-20%, leading to 7-10% jump in Overall Cost of Goods Sold, before accounting for taxes.

Urging a balanced approach, ISWAI warned failure to adjust prices could disrupt consumer supply and impact industry's contribution to excise revenue. "We urge the state to consider price revisions to maintain business viability, safeguard jobs and sustain broader economy," the CEO said.

## Fatal accident: HC revises elderly man's sentence to 1-day jail

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** The high court has reduced the sentence of a 79-year-old man from one year to one day of simple imprisonment in a fatal accident case. However, he has to pay an enhanced fine of Rs 5 lakh.

The court passed the order after noting physical condition of the elderly man, who was sentenced to one-year simple imprisonment.

"Taking note of the physical/health condition of the petitioner, this court, as a peculiar case, is of the opinion that the sentence needs to be modified by directing petitioner to undergo simple imprisonment for the day till rising of the court by paying enhanced fine of Rs 5,00,000, though concept of 'blood money' is alien to Indian criminal jurisprudence," Justice V Srishananda said, while partly allowing the petition filed by Syed Saifuddin, brought to the court on a wheelchair.

The accident occurred on KRS ring road in Mysuru on July 28, 2012. Saifuddin, test-driving a car, hit a motorcycle near the railway bridge. Both riders on the bike fell on the road. Pillion rider, Lakshmi, sustained serious injuries and died. In 2018, trial court convicted Saifuddin and sentenced him to one year of simple imprisonment.

Challenging this, he appeared before the high court on a wheelchair and volunteered to pay Rs 5 lakh to Lakshmi's family.

The court said since petitioner is on a wheelchair and unable to attend to his day-to-day activities without assistance, sending him to prison will serve no useful purpose.

GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT

NOTICE FOR ROLLING ADVERTISEMENT FOR TEACHING FACULTY POSTS AT TURA MEDICAL COLLEGE FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-27

No. Health. 145/2026/7 Date: Shillong the 11th May 2026

The **Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of Meghalaya,** invites applications from eligible personnel for the posts of **14 Professors, 20 Associate Professors and 25 Assistant Professors on a contract basis** in these various disciplines for the **proposed Tura Medical College targeted to be operational during 2026 - 27 Academic Year.**

For detailed advertisement, including eligibility criteria, application form and other instructions, please visit the official website of the Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of Meghalaya: **https://meghealth.gov.in**

Sd/-
Under Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya,
Health & Family Welfare Department.

MIPR No. : 407
Dated : 11-05-2026

## New MLAs to take oath on May 14

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Speaker U T Khader will administer oath of office to newly elected MLAs Umesh Meti and Samarth Shamanur Mallikarjun on May 14. The ceremony will be held in the Vidhana Soudha conference room at 10 am, Khader's office said.

It was scheduled on Monday, but was postponed due to Minister D Sudhakar's death, after which a 3-day mourning was announced.

DH
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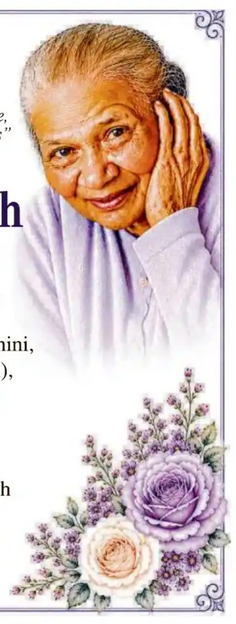
OBITUARY

*"The eternal God is your dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms"*
DEUTERONOMY 33:27



**Leela Elizabeth Dawson**

January 22, 1925 - May 10, 2026

Mother of Daniel, Ranjini and Shanthini,
Wife of PD Dawson (Basavangudi),
Leela passed away peacefully
at the age of 101

**Funeral**
Richmond Town Methodist Church
11am Wednesday 13 May 2026

**Burial**
Hosur Road Cemetery Gate No.1

## New excise policy...

Alcohol, from Page 1

The common man's liquor, typically whisky, rum, gin and brandy in slabs 1-5, is expected to see a price hike of 20% to 30%. "Indians consume more spirits, which have a higher alcohol contenCt, than beer, which is preferred in the West," he noted.

The member also said that the market for these lower slabs has already shrunk by 6% and warned that while the government widened slabs by Rs 20 last year after a gap of 10 years, it is a drop in the ocean compared to the rising cost of production. Input costs, including raw spirit and packaging, have reportedly surged by Rs 100 over the past four years, leaving local players with thin margins.

The association urged the government to rationalise duties in slabs 1-5.

|| SHRADHANJALI ||

**SJ Jaya Prakash**
22.12.1948 - 11.05.2026

# Leopard attack: Pilgrims allege apathy of authorities

## Combing launched a day after the death of 10-year-old boy

**BALACHANDRA H**
MALE MAHADESHWARA HILLS (CHAMARAJANAGAR DIST), DHNS

The safety of pilgrims on the trekking route to the ancient Nagamale shrine near Male Mahadeshwara (MM) Hills in Hanur taluk is at risk, as a leopard mauled a young boy to death in the early hours of Sunday.

Ten-year-old Harshit, a resident of Kamakshipalya in Bengaluru, died in the leopard attack near Nagamale in Cauvery Wildlife Division, on Sunday. The leopard dragged the child 50 metres and caught his neck, killing him on the spot.

Harshit was walking towards the Nagamale shrine with his family when the leopard pounced on him and dragged him into the forest.

Despite frequent reports of leopard sightings and attacks on this route, the Forest department and the Male Mahadeshwara Swamy Kshetra Development Authority have drawn flak for failing to deploy adequate security personnel.

This tragedy follows a string of similar incidents. On January 21, Praveen from Mandya district's Cheeranahalli died in a leopard attack while trekking to the hills. On February 10, Shreyas (8) from Channapatna was injured in another attack.

Despite the recurring incidents, pilgrims allege that the departments concerned have shown absolute apathy toward public safety.

### Negligence

Nagamale is a significant pilgrimage site, and most devotees visiting MM Hills trek the three-km stretch from Indiganatta village to reach it. The route is inaccessible to vehicles.

The Forest department charges devotees and trekkers Rs 200 per head, while private vehicle drivers charge an additional Rs 100 to transport them from MM Hills to Indiganatta village.

"Even after collecting these fees, there are no security guards on the route, no information centres, and not even basic drinking water facilities," pilgrims allege.

The victim's mother Pavithra, who was in shock, blamed the authorities for her son's death.

"Neither the drivers nor the forest staff warned us about the movement of wild animals there. There are no warning boards on the route. If there were guards on the walking path, my son's life could have been saved," she said, demanding punishment for the negligent officials.

**Farmers, under the banner of Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha, stage a protest accusing forest department of failure in checking the rampant wild animal attacks, near Kollegal checkpost of Male Mahadeshwara Hills in Chamarajanagar district on Monday.** DH PHOTO

### No basic amenities

Pilgrims noted that collection of money has become rampant at places like the Palar checkpost in the guise of entry fees, but the revenue is not being utilised for devotee safety.

The lack of warning signs and the absence of a dedicated surveillance team on the route have turned a journey of faith into a death trap for many, they said.

### Ban on climbing

Conservator of Forests, Chamarajanagar circle, Malathi Priya has ordered a temporary ban on pilgrims climbing MM Hills via the stepped path.

Pilgrims now have to take a KSRTC bus from Taalu Betta to MM Hills. Trekking to Nagamale is also temporarily banned.

Forest department officials, along with personnel of the Leopard Task Force, have launched a combing operation and are using three drones to trace the leopard, so that no such tragedy is repeated, Malathi Priya said.

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Any entity/person/persons/ having or claiming any right, title, claims, benefits, demands, interests or any objections etc with respect to the Schedule Property, he/She/they may contact the undersigned with documentary proof substantiating his/her/their objections/claims/ disputes within 03 days from the date of publication of this notice , falling our client will proceed to complete the sale transaction with the above mentioned owner as if there are no objections/claims/ dispute with respect to the Schedule Property and thereafter no objections/claims/dispute will be entertained.

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I, **Harisha G,** residing at No. 217, 4th Main, Agrahara Layout, Yelahanka Bangalore-560064, have lost the **Original Sale Deed Document / Identification No. BNS -1-1129-2022-23 Bengaluru East, Bidarahalli Hobli, Kannuru Village, Sy. No. 181/5, New Sy No. 181/6, Registered at Sub Registrar Office, Banasavadi, Bengaluru-43** Regarding this i have given a police complaint (Lost of Report No. 2157099 on 15.04.2026), while shifting residence. If found please **Contact: 9880429999.**

**DOCUMENTS LOST**
I, **Manjunatha G,** S/o. Govinda Swamy. B, N. 10/13, 2nd Cross, V,S Garden, J J R Nagar, Bangalore - 560026, have Lost Sale Deed, Registered As **No.1832, Year - 1980-81, Pages. - 23-96, Book No. 1, Volume - 678, Dated - 30-07-1980,** in the Office of Sub Registrar, Srirampura. Bangalore, a complaint is lodged with J J R Nagar Police Station Bangalore, if anyone founds the above please contact 89704 51660

**Change of Name**

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **ASWATH NARAYAN** S/o P R Kandaswamy, residing at No. 68, 2nd Cross, Venkateshwara Layout Herohalli, Bengaluru-560091, have changed my name to **ASHWATH NARAYAN** vide affidavit dated 06-05-2026 before notary Lakshmaiah Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called **ASHWATH NARAYAN** only

**ANNOUNCEMENT**
I, **CHITTY PRASAD N** S/o **Nagaraj N,** R/at No.27, Thippanna Layout, 2nd Cross, Kariyanapalya, VTC: Lingarajapuram, PO: St. Thomas Town, Bengaluru-560 084, declare that my father's name is wrongly mentioned in some of my documents as NAGARAJ M. instead of correct name **NAGARAJ N.** vide affidavit dated 08-05-2026 before notary Bhagya Kumari N, Bengaluru.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **SHRUTHI SRINIVAS RAO,** residing at # 297, Srinivasa Nilaya, 11th Cross, 8th Main, Vidyapeeta, Opp to CKA Police Station, Bengaluru-560085 have changed my name to **SHRRUTI RAO** vide affidavit dated 27-04-2026 before notary Ganesh Gowda M.V., Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called **SHRRUTI RAO** only

I, **JNANAVI** GIREESHA #5-8-1, 1st Main, 7th Cross, Govindarajnagar, Vijaynagar, Bengaluru-40, have changed my name to JNANAVI GIRISH Vide affidavit dated-11/05/2026

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**I, ANITHA** Ashwath W/o K. Ashwath aged about 53 Years resident of Raghavendra Nivasa, 3rd Cross, Palasandra layout, Kolar 563101, Have changed my name to Anitha G vide affidavit dated 29.04.2026 before Notary H. Krishne Gowda, Kolar. Henceforth I shall be called as Anitha G only.

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# A year on, govt yet to issue issue final notification on min wages

## Final notification to be issued within 2 weeks: Minister Lad

BENGALURU, DHNS:

More than a year after issuing a draft notification on increasing minimum wages for workers across skill levels and zones, and multiple consultations, the labour department is yet to take a final call on the issue.

The state government's draft is based on the landmark Supreme Court judgment in the Reptakos Brett case, which mandates fixation of minimum wages based on the cost of food, clothing, shelter, education and medicinal needs.

However, the union government's new code on wages rules that were published on May 8 neither refers to the Reptakos Brett case nor provides any alternative criteria to fix minimum wages.

According to sources, the final notification will be issued after obtaining legal opinion on the legal aspects of whether labour code rules have any bearing on the draft notification.

Labour Minister Santosh Lad told *DH* that the department would issue the final notification within two weeks as per the criteria outlined in the draft notification.

Months ago, the joint committee of trade unions had urged the labour department to proceed with its minimum wage proposal by arguing that there was no "legal obstacle" to proceed with its earlier notification.

It had referred to section 69 (repeal and savings) of the wage code, which explains that any notification, nomination, appointment and so on that are "not contrary" to the provisions of the code "shall be in force."

As per the draft, workers are divided into four skill levels (highly skilled, skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled) in three zones (zone 1 - Bengaluru and districts with municipal corporations, zone 2 - other districts and zone 3 - taluk centres).

It proposes a minimum wage of Rs 23,276 for unskilled workers in zone 1, Rs 21,251 for unskilled workers in zone 2 and Rs 19,319 for unskilled workers in zone 3.

While labour unions have expressed "in-principle" agreement with the draft, they have suggested that food, clothing and shelter expenses should comprise 55%, and that children's education (25%) and miscellaneous costs (20%) should make up the remaining 45% of the minimum wage.

According to sources, the basis for fixing the minimum wages will be as crucial as the final amount.

If the criteria based on which the minimum wage is calculated are not properly explained in the notification, it may not stand legal scrutiny, a source added.

A senior official in the Labour Department told *DH* that a new notification will be issued as per the Labour Code.

## PWD engineer leaps to death at Devarayanadurga

**TUMAKURU, DHNS:** A 33-year-old Assistant Engineer with the Pavagada Public Works Department (PWD) leapt to his death from the Devarayanadurga hills in Tumakuru district on Monday.

The victim, Manju Prasad, had sunk into depression following his mother's death 18 months ago. On Monday morning, he informed everyone at home that he was off to work. En route to Devarayanadurga, he stopped at a relative's home in Koratagere, to whom he handed over his mobile phone and house keys. He informed them that he had to attend a conference at Devarayanadurga.

His actions aroused his relatives' suspicions, and they rushed to Devarayanadurga to see whether he was all right. However, they were met with the shocking news of his death. Prasad's body was found in a 200-foot-deep abyss below the Guest House atop the hill. A case has been registered in connection with his death at the Kyatasandra police station.

## Modi's appeal spooks markets, rupee slides

Modi, from Page 1

India imported gold worth around $72 billion in FY26, which was a key contributor to widening the country's trade deficit. The value of crude oil import stood at $135 billion.

"At present, India's strong fiscal position and healthy forex reserves are helping the government to absorb the impact of elevated crude prices. However, prolonged geopolitical tensions could increase macroeconomic stress," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Ltd.

Despite the sharp increase in crude oil prices due to the ongoing West Asia conflict, pump prices of diesel and petrol in India have remained largely unchanged.

State-run oil marketing companies Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum are estimated to incur loss of nearly Rs 30,000 crore per month on the sale of petrol, diesel and cooking gas.

## READYING TO RAISE FAMILY

**Baya weaver birds build nests for breeding on a tree branch, on the outskirts of Mysuru on Monday.** DH PHOTO/ANUP RAGH T

## Two boys drown in Nagamangala lake

**NAGAMANGALA (MANDYA DISTRICT), DHNS:** Two 17-year-old boys drowned while swimming in a lake at Heraganahalli, under Bindiganavile hobli of Nagamangala taluk.

The deceased were identified as Satyaprakash (17), a resident of Alisandra village, and Yashas (17), from Heraganahalli. They were reportedly in the process to get admission for I PU. and had recently cleared their SSLC examinations. They were reportedly preparing to seek admission to first-year pre-university course.

As the boys had holidays, they went to the Heraganahalli lake for a swim around 5 pm on Saturday. When they did not return home after a long time, their parents and family members went out to look for them. Upon reaching the lake late Saturday night, they found Satyaprakash's bike parked near the lake bund and the clothes of both boys on the bank.

The police and Fire and Emergency Services department personnel conducted a search operation on Sunday and traced out the bodies. After a post-mortem examination at Adichunchanagiri Hospital in BG Nagar, the bodies were handed over to the families.

A case has been registered at Bindiganavile police station.

## Kukke temple earns Rs 167.89 cr revenue

**MANGALURU, DHNS:** Kukke Subrahmanya Temple has recorded an annual revenue of Rs 167.89 crore during the 2025–26 financial year, retaining its position as the highest-earning Muzrai temple in Karnataka for the 15th consecutive year.

The revenue was generated between April 1, 2025 and March 31, 2026, while the temple's expenditure during the same period stood at Rs 85.20 crore.

The temple had earned Rs 155 crore during the 2024–25 financial year.

## Student ends life

**BELAGAVI, DHNS:** A 21-year-girl staying in the post-matric hostel of Scheduled Classes Welfare Department ended life by hanging herself in her room on her birthday on Monday.

The deceased was identified as Kaveri Umesh Nayak (21), a resident of Katabali in Hukkeri taluk. She was studying in BSc final year. Her marriage had been fixed three months ago with a police constable. Reason for her taking the extreme step is yet to be known. APMC police are investigating.

## Jharkhand CM visits Dubare

**KUSHALNAGAR/SIDDAPURA (KODAGU DISTRICT), DHNS:** Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren visited the famed Dubare Elephant Camp on Monday, along with his family members during a private visit.

According to Forest Department sources, the Jharkhand CM spent about an hour at the camp.

# In hot city Ballari, PWD wants to axe 233 trees for road widening

## Offers to fund reforestation, seeks 'urgent nod' to fell trees

BALLARI, DHNS

The public works department (PWD) has resumed the work to axe a total of 233 trees for widening the Kolagal road in the city, amid much opposition to the move by environmentalists.

The felling of trees had been started on the night of April 24, without permission. It was stopped following the intervention of the police and forest department officials, but 25 trees had already been brought down.

Separate FIRs have already been registered in this connection at the Cowl Bazaar police and with the forest department.

Efforts have now been renewed to axe the trees. Among the trees marked for felling are 94 trees to widen the Ballari-Badanalli district road by 24 metres, under phase-5 of the state highway development project, 76 trees near Vidyanagar circle for road widening under appendix-E project, besides 63 others under the same project.

It is said that cases have been registered against some aides of political leaders, PWD officials and contractor companies.

One of the trees axed for road widening lies in a heap on the roadside in Ballari.

The forest department had expressed dissatisfaction against the felling of trees in a communication to the PWD, saying, "Summer heat is on the rise in the city each year and felling trees on either side of the roads will only worsen the situation".

It had also suggested that the widening work can be undertaken without bringing down the trees, by remodelling the road shoulders. The forest department had cited recent orders of the National Green Tribunal in this regard.

In its reply, the PWD stated that it was impossible to widen the roads by retaining the trees.

"There will be no space for drainage and pedestrian walkway if trees are retained and it will also narrow down the carriageway. While shifting electricity poles, they may come in contact with tree branches, leading to a short circuit. The trees may be uprooted due to weakening of the roots during the road work," the PWD said.

Tree branches may obstruct the riders' view of the signages, it said. The PWD also offered to pay the forest department for undertaking reforestation under the Karnataka Tree Preservation Act, 1976, urging it to give details on the cost of reforestation and to permit axing of 94 trees on urgent basis.

## Congress' Rajegowda stays...

Sringeri MLA, from Page 1

However, the high court, acting on an election petition filed by Jeevaraj, directed reverification and recounting of postal ballots on April 6.

The recount exercise, however, dramatically altered the result. Jeevaraj's postal ballot tally reduced marginally from 692 to 690 votes and Rajegowda's tally fell sharply from 569 to 314 votes, resulting in a net reduction of 255 votes in his favour.

The returning officer declared Jeevaraj elected. This resulted in unseating of the sitting Congress MLA almost three years after he entered the Assembly.

Senior advocates Kapil Sibal, Mukul Rohatgi and Devadatt Kamat, representing Rajegowda, questioned the validity of the high court's order.

Senior advocate V Giri, appearing for Jeevaraj, contended that he had already been administered the oath as the MLA by the Speaker.

The bench said, "That will have to be invalidated...all steps taken pursuant to that exercise by the returning officer shall remain in abeyance."

The bench said, "If he (returning officer) has undertaken the exercise of invalidating what were earlier treated as valid postal ballots, then, he has gone beyond the order." Sibal said he has exactly done that.

"In all, 532 and 689 postal ballots were valid earlier. Has he invalidated any of those," the bench asked. Giri said the court had directed a recounting, therefore the entire postal ballots were recounted.

The bench said that there is no question of re-verifying valid votes. Giri said it is not a question of revalidation and he has to look at each postal ballot and recount it.

The bench observed that the returning officer not only undertook the re-verification of the 279 rejected postal ballots but also the recounting of the 1,530 postal ballots.

Giri said there was recounting of entire postal ballots.

The bench said there was also reverification of the 1,251 postal ballots, which were earlier held to be valid. It also noted that on re-verification, he invalidated their 240 votes. The court also emphasised that the fait accompli contention will not help Giri's client.

The court finally issued notice to the respondents Karnataka government, Election Commission and others and fixed the matter for consideration on May 21.

## SLIPPERY RIDE

A motorcyclist rides through rain on PB Road in Hubballi on Monday. Several parts of Haveri district also received rains , bringing temporary relief from the intense summer heat. DH PHOTO

# Sudhakar cremated with full state honours

CHALLAKERE (CHITRADURGA DISTRICT), DHNS

The mortal remains of Planning and Statistics Minister D Sudhakar were consigned to flames with full government honours in Challakere on Monday.

Sudhakar (66) had undergone a knee surgery, but slipped into a coma after developing a lung infection. He was shifted from Manipal Hospital to KIMS Hospital in Electronic City, at Bengaluru, and was declared dead at 3.15 am on Sunday.

The body was shifted from his residence to D Sudhakar Stadium at 10 AM and public were allowed pay their homage till 4 pm.

Later, the mortal remains were taken to Jain Muktidhama in a procession. Thousands of people paid their tributes to the departed leader en route. Several Jain seers were also present.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah consoles the family members of late minister D Sudhakar, in Challakere of Chitradurga district on Monday.

The family members performed rituals as per Jain customs. The police fired three rounds in the air as a mark of respect. Sudhakar's son, Suhas, lit the funeral pyre.

AICC general secretary in charge of Karnataka Randeep Singh Surjewala described Sudhakar as an asset for the state. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar and many Cabinet members were present.

# Vinesh shows up in Gonda, refuses to...

Vinesh, From Page 1

"What do you expect me to do? Shall i take *sanyaas* and stay away? Accept defeat? So that their conspiracy against me succeeds?" Vinesh said.

"They are not allowing me. They want to see me tried and retired. All I am asking is a fair chance to compete but they are insisting that first I reply to their notice. This is all conspiracy."

Earlier, WFI cited in its notice that it has reason to believe that Vinesh violated the UWW and WADA rules of informing the apex bodies of her intentions of a comeback six months in advance. Accordingly, it added that she is ineligible to compete till June 26, 2026 after she announced her comeback last December.

Vinesh, however, claimed that she was cleared by the International Testing Agency (ITA), a body governed by WADA, already cleared her to compete. She also explained her two counts of 'whereabouts failure' or 'missed tests' by NADA and WADA, saying she would have been banned by the anti-doping watchdogs if she violated their rules.

"If I had violated any rule, then NADA India would have given me a show-cause notice. Or they would have banned me. Or WADA would have given me a show-cause notice. I had missed one whereabouts. And there are three of them. I had become a mother at that time. I had an assembly session. I forgot to update. I even apologised to WADA for that. They gave me a clean chit. They told me that I can participate in any international event," she said.

Vinesh took to social media to share a screenshot of an email from the ITA has cleared her to compete from January 1, 2026 onwards.

Elaborating further on the conspiracy against her claims, Vinesh added that the show-cause notice was sent to her on purpose on Friday night, when courts are closed. She further added that all the roadblocks are being created for her to get tired and quit.

### WFI refutes claim

"I got the notice on Friday night. Saturday I was reducing weight and doing paperwork. They knew exactly when to send the notice, when courts would be closed and when filing would become difficult. This is all pre-planned. I informed WFI on December 12 of my comeback, why send it two days before the competition?" she alleged.

Meanwhile, WFI chief Sanjay, however, refuted the allegations, adding that the notice went to her late because she only recently filled in for the tournament (April 27), adding she remains ineligible to compete untill the disciplinary proceeding -- by the WFI panel -- is completed.

"The show-cause notice was served late because we recently learned of her registration for the event. There was no intention to send it that late as preparing such elaborated notice (15 pages) takes time," the WFI chief said.

He further added that the federation is not satisfied with her response for competing in two weight divisions during the Olympic trials in Patiala in 2024. While it was flagged as 'unsportsman-like conduct', which also violates UWW competition rules, Sanjay asserted that they will make a decision only after getting a satisfactory response.


ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರ
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ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕಾಪಾಅ/ಗ್ರಾಕುನೀಮತ್ತುನೈ/ವಿಯಾ/ಟೆ.ಪ್ರ/ತಾಶಾ/KKRDB(Macro)/2026–27/128 ದಿ:05/5/2026

**ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್" ಮೂಲಕ**

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಮಾನ್ಯ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕುಮೆಂಟ ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–1,2&3 ಹಾಗೂ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ನಿಯಮಗಳು, G.O.No.FD 9 PCL 2004 Dt:06.08.2005 ಹಾಗೂ ಇತ್ತೀಚ್ಚಿನ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟಂತೆ, ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು, ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಮತ್ತು ನೈರ್ಮಲ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಾದಗಿರಿ ಇವರು 2025–26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ KKRDB(Macro) ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರುಗಳಿಂದ ನಿಶ್ಚಿತ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಹೆಸರನ್ನು ನಮೂದಿಸಿ ಏಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತಿವೆ.

**ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳು: 1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕುಮೆಂಟ್ಸ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ/ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೊಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:** 07/05/2026 ಸಮಯ: ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ **2) ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್‌ಲ್ಲಿ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಿಡ್ಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ :**16/05/2026. ಸಮಯ ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ವರೆಗೆ **3) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:** 18/05/2026. ಸಮಯ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ **4) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:** 20/05/2026 ಸಮಯ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ.

**(1) ಕೆಲಸ ಹೆಸರು:** ಸುರಪೂರ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಐನಪೂರ ಗ್ರಾಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಸರಬರಾಜುಗಾಗಿ. **ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ.:** 10056. **ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):** 50.00. **ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):** 50000/–. **ಕೆಲಸ ಮುಗಿಸುವ ಅವಧಿ (ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ):** 180 ದಿನಗಳು. **ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ದರ್ಜೆ:** 3ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು, **ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಮೀಸಲಾತಿಗಳು:** GENERAL **(2) ಕೆಲಸ ಹೆಸರು:** ಸುರಪೂರ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಮಲ್ಲಾ–ಬಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಸರಬರಾಜುಗಾಗಿ. **ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ.:** 10057. **ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):** 40.00. **ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):** 40000/–. **ಕೆಲಸ ಮುಗಿಸುವ ಅವಧಿ (ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ):** 120 ದಿನಗಳು. **ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ದರ್ಜೆ:** 3ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು, **ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಮೀಸಲಾತಿಗಳು:** CAT-II(A) **(3) ಕೆಲಸ ಹೆಸರು:** ಸುರಪೂರ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಏವೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಸರಬರಾಜುಗಾಗಿ. **ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ.:** 10058. **ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):** 20.00. **ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):** 25000/–. **ಕೆಲಸ ಮುಗಿಸುವ ಅವಧಿ (ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ):** 120 ದಿನಗಳು. **ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ದರ್ಜೆ:** 4ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು, **ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಮೀಸಲಾತಿಗಳು:** CAT-I **(4) ಕೆಲಸ ಹೆಸರು:** ಸುರಪೂರ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಹೆಗ್ಗಣದೊಡ್ಡಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಸರಬರಾಜುಗಾಗಿ. **ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ.:** 10059. **ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):** 10.00. **ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):** 12500/–. **ಕೆಲಸ ಮುಗಿಸುವ ಅವಧಿ (ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ):** 120 ದಿನಗಳು. **ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ದರ್ಜೆ:** 4ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು, **ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಮೀಸಲಾತಿಗಳು:** GENERAL **(5) ಕೆಲಸ ಹೆಸರು:** ಸುರಪೂರ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಜೈನಾಪೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಸರಬರಾಜುಗಾಗಿ. **ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ.:** 10060. **ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):** 10.00. **ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):** 12500/–. **ಕೆಲಸ ಮುಗಿಸುವ ಅವಧಿ (ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ):** 120 ದಿನಗಳು. **ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ದರ್ಜೆ:** 4ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು, **ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಮೀಸಲಾತಿಗಳು:** GENERAL

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಮತ್ತು ನೈರ್ಮಲ್ಯ
ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಾದಗಿರಿ.

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ಯಾದಗಿರಿ/61/ಕೆ.ಎಸ್.ಎಂ.ಪಿ.&ಎ/2025–26



**TOWN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, BELUR-573115, HASSAN**

E-mail: itstaff_ulb_belur@yahoo.co.in, townmunicipal.belur@gmail.com ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 08177–222221

No. TMC/JE/TENDER-02/ 2026-27 Dated: 11.05.2026

**E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION**

Sl.No.1)Name of work 1)DMA/2026-27/SE7728 Tender amount (Rs. In Lakhs)AS PER KPPE PORTAL. EMD (Rs. In Lakhs)AS PER KPPE PORTAL. 1)Last date and time for tender notification in E-procurement: 27.05.2026 upto 5.30pm. 2)Techinical bid opening date and time: 29.05.2026 at 11.30am 3)Financial bid opening date and time: 30.05.2026 at 11.30am

Sd/- President, TMC, Belur. Sd/- Chief Officer, TMC, Belur.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/119/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಪಿಎ/2026–27



**KOF Karnataka Co-Operative Oilseeds Growers' Federation Ltd.**

No. 11, 4th Floor, Blue Cross Chambers, Infantry Road Cross,Bangalore – 560001
Ph: 080-25550268, Mob: 8073093473/951812016, email : pi@kof.coop

Ref: KOF:PI:GB:2026-27 Date: 11.05.2026

**TENDER NOTIFICATION**

Managing Director, KOF, Bangalore is inviting tender for supply of 40,000 to 50,000 new B-twill empty gunny bags measuring 112cm Length X 67.5cm Width with 850gsm (+ or – 50gm) for filling Sunflower, which is procuring under Price Support Scheme Operation during Rabi 2026 season.

The detailed tender information alongwith EMD details can be viewed from e-procurement website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Any changes or corrigendum, the same shall be updated in KPP Portal.

**Sd/- Managing Director**



**Karnataka Public works Department.**

**Tumkur Division, Karnataka Telephone: 0816-2272479,**

No;EE/KPWD/Tmk/JE.2/T.No.11/2026-27 Dt: 06.05.2026

**Invitation For Tenders (IFT) KW-4**
**E-TENDER NOTIFICATION**

On behalf of Government of Karnataka tenders are invited in Two cover system for Class-1 & above Contractors registered in PWD for 01 work under 5054-80-190-0-01-132 KRDCL Head of account in the jurisidiction of Tumkur Division through KPPP-Portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).

The dates are published as below.

(Amount Put to Tender Rs.653.66Lakhs, EMD Amount Rs.980491/-)

1. Last date for tender information enqueries : 04-06-2026 :17.30. 2. Last date for submission of tender: 05-06-2026 : 16.00. 3. Date of opening the Technical bid: 06-06-2026 : 16.30. 4. Date of opening the Financial bid: 08-06-2026 : 17.00. Note: Turnover Certificate without UDI Number will not be considered. Here after Changes with Refference to This Notification will be Notified in E-Portal Only

**Sd/-** EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
PWD DIVISION, TUMKUR.

DIPR/TUM/62/KSMCA/2026-27



**KARNATAKA STATE LAW UNIVERSITY**
**LAW SCHOOL**
**Navanagar, Hubballi-580025**
**(Accredited by NAAC with 'A' Grade)**

**ADMISSION NOTIFICATION**

**5 Year B.A., LL.B. (Hons.) , 5 Year B.B.A., LL.B. (Hons.) and 5 Year B.Com., LL.B. (Hons.) for Academic Year 2026-27**

Applications are invited from the eligible candidates for admission to the following programmes at KSLU's Law School, Navanagar, Hubballi-580025 for Academic Year **2026- 27:** 5 Year B.A., LL.B. (Hons.), 5 Year B.B.A., LL.B. (Hons.) and 5 Year B.Com., LL.B. (Hons.) Programmes after PUC.

**Minimum Qualification:**
* 2 year PUC or equivalent course with 45% Aggregate Marks (OBC 42%, SC/ST 40%).

**Age Limit:** Maximum age for seeking admission is limited to 20 years (born on or after **04-05-2006**) in case of General Category of applicants and to 22 years (born on or after **04-05-2004**) in the case of applicants from SC, ST and Other Backward Class.

**Selection Procedure:** Admissions to the above programmes are based on admission test designed to decide the candidate's skill in Comprehension Communication, Arithmetic and reasoning ability and aptitude for Legal learning.

* Government rules relating to reservations apply.

**Applications:** Application Forms may be obtained from the Office of the Karnataka State Law University's Law School, Navanagar, Hubballi-580 025, by paying an application fee of **Rs.500/-** (for SC/ST and Cat-I **Rs.250/-)** through Bank Challan, **SBI** Online Challan.

**OR**

Application can also be downloaded from the Website www.kslu.karnataka.gov.in and filled application shall be submitted along with the Bank Challan, **SBI** Online Challan to the **Director, KSLU's Law School, Navanagar, Hubballi-580025.**

**Last Date for Submitting Applications : 04-06-2026.**

**Date of Admission Test :07-06-2026 from 11.00a.m. to 01.30p.m.**

**Facilities:** *Highly Qualified Faculty. *Free access to Manupatra, Westlaw and Hein online data bases. *Free Internet Facility. *Hi-tech Library. *Opportunities to Participate in National Moot Court Competitions, Conferences, Workshops. *Ample Scope for Developing Rich Mooting & Advocacy Skills. *Encouragement for Sports & Cultural Activities. *Exposure to Professional Platforms.

**Contact Details:**
Office Phone No.: 0836-2956072
Website: www.kslu.Karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/-
**DIRECTOR**

DIPR/DWD/160/Deshpandepublicity/2026-27



**BENGALURU EAST CITY CORPORATION**
**Office of the Executive Engineer, MP&CS, K.R. Puram**
**BECC, Old Madras Road, Bengaluru-560036.**

No. BECC/PR/EE(MP&CS)/10/2025-26 Date: 11.05.2026

**INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER**

**(Only through GoK KPP Portal)**

The Executive Engineer (MP&CS), BECC, Bengaluru on behalf the Commissioner, BECC invites Tenders from eligible contractors registered in BECC or GBA or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Govt. Organisations for the following works.

| Sl. No. | Name of the Work |
|---|---|
| 1 | Maintenance and improvements to Horamavu BBMP office building and office premises in Ward No. 87, Horamavu (Category: **Others**). Estimated amount: **Rs. 49.00 lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 98,000/-.** |
| 2 | Maintenance of K.R.Pura BBMP office building in Ward No. 93, Devasandra (Category: **ST**). Estimated amount: **Rs. 20.00 lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 40,000/-.** |
| 3 | Improvements to K.R. Pura BBMP Office building premises in Ward No. 93, Devasandra (Category: **SC**). Estimated amount: **Rs. 25.00 lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 50,000/-.** |
| 4 | Maintenance of Samudaya Bhavana at Chikkadevasandra in Ward No. 92, Basavanapura (Category: **Others**). Estimated amount: **Rs. 11.00 lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 27,500/-.** |
| 5 | Improvements to Burial ground at Horamavu agara and Horamavu village in Ward No. 87, Horamavu (Category: **IIA**). Estimated amount: **Rs. 25.00 lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 50,000/-.** |
| 6 | Repairs to Primary health centers at Jayanthi nagara Horamavu village in Ward No. 87, Horamavu (Category: **IIA**). Estimated amount: **Rs. 7.00 lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 17,500/-.** |
| 7 | Improvements to Burial ground at Kothanuru village and Kyalasanahalli in Ward No. 87, Horamavu (Category: **SC**). Estimated amount: **Rs. 42.00 lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 84,000/-.** |

Period of completion : **6 months for Sl.No. 1, 3, 4, 5 & 7, 12 months for Sl.No.2 and 3 months for Sl.No. 6.**

**Calendar of Events:** **(1)** Tender documents may be downloaded from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 13.05.2026. (2)** Date of pre-bid meeting : **16.05.2026 at 15.00 hrs. (3)** Last date for submission of tenders : **21.05.2026 upto 16.00 hrs. (4)** Date of opening of technical bid : **22.05.2026 at 11.30 hrs.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

**Sd/- Executive Engineer (M.P.&C.S.,), BECC**

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

# Numbers secured; now the governance test

The swearing-in of Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) chief C Joseph Vijay as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, after a phase of uncertainty, opens a new chapter in the state's politics. Governor Rajendra Arlekar's decision to defer his invitation to Vijay – the head of the single-largest party – to form the government, while seeking evidence of the party's majority in the House, conflicted with the established conventions. This could be indicative of obstructionist actions the actor-turned-politician may have to encounter. The pressures will be substantial, given that the TVK's majority in the House is thin. It is the first time since 1967 that Tamil Nadu has a government that does not profess the Dravidian ideology. It is also the first time since 1952 that the state has a coalition government.

Vijay's stellar electoral performance has opened up Tamil Nadu's politics and signals possibilities for non-Dravidian alternatives. It may inspire national parties to expand their space in the state. Vijay has claimed the inheritance of both K Kamaraj and 'Periyar' E V Ramaswamy. The Congress will be represented in his ministry. There are indications that he will follow centrist-secular policies. Notably, the support he enjoys from all coalition partners is not unconditional. The Left parties may reconsider their backing if the government deviates from the path it has outlined. These parties, along with the Viduthalai Chiruthaikal Katchi (VCK), proclaimed their support seeking a "stable and secular" government. They also consulted with the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) about their move and can still be considered aligned with the DMK. The DMK has reasons to be unhappy with the Congress, which it accused of betrayal for walking out of a decades-old alliance. The Congress has its political objectives and is likely to contest subsequent elections with its new ally.

**Vijay will need to navigate inexperience and fiscal stress amid intensifying Centre-state friction**

On his first day in office, Vijay announced the setting up of a women's protection force, anti-drug squads, and free power to consumers who fall under a certain threshold. He said the outgoing DMK government left behind a debt burden of about Rs 10 lakh crore and promised to release a white paper on the state's finances. High debt is a feature of finances in all states; Vijay may face constraints when he sets out to implement his populist promises. With no experience in politics or governance, the Chief Minister will have to hit the ground running. His challenges will be manifold, and he will particularly feel the pressure while protecting the state's interests within a strained federal system.

# Vaping laws falter in enforcement

Despite a nationwide ban, vaping and e-cigarettes continue to flourish across Bengaluru, exposing the gap between legislation and enforcement. A recent survey by LocalCircles, a community social media platform, revealed how widespread vaping has become. Of the 2,524 respondents, nearly 13% said they witnessed vaping near their residence or workplace every day, while another 13% reported seeing it every week. Alarmingly, respondents identified corporate offices, restaurants, clubs, and even areas near schools and colleges as hotspots. The concern is no longer confined to nightlife or private parties; it is seeping into spaces frequented by young people. The seizure of e-cigarettes worth Rs 3 crore by the Central Crime Branch only highlights the scale of the underground trade. However, Bengaluru police have booked a mere 109 cases related to vaping over the last three years.

The dangers of vaping are often underestimated because e-cigarettes are marketed as a safer alternative to conventional smoking. They are not. The aerosol produced by these devices contains toxic chemicals such as propylene glycol and vegetable glycerin. Studies have also found traces of heavy metals like nickel and lead in the vapour. Many disposable vapes contain high nicotine concentrations, making addiction quicker and more intense, especially among adolescents. Doctors have also linked vaping to E-cigarette or Vaping Use-Associated Lung Injury, a severe inflammatory lung condition.

**Stronger monitoring and harsher penalties are essential to curb Bengaluru's illegal vaping trade**

To his credit, Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao has shown proactiveness. The government banned hookah bars, amended tobacco laws to raise fines for public smoking to Rs 1,000, increased the legal age for tobacco purchases to 21, and prohibited the sale of loose cigarettes. In addition, smoking in restaurants and pubs is permitted only in designated zones where food and beverages cannot be served. But these rules are violated with impunity as the authorities look the other way. The problem, thus, is not legislative intent but weak implementation and lack of sustained monitoring. Laws without meaningful action are merely statements of aspiration. The solution must combine public awareness with consistent crackdowns. Corporate offices, where vaping appears particularly prevalent, must adopt stricter workplace policies and sensitise employees about the health risks and legal consequences. Restaurants, pubs, and retailers violating the rules should face steep penalties, including suspension of licences for repeat offences. Periodic special drives must target not just users but the entire chain of enablers – smugglers, suppliers, retailers, and establishments facilitating the trade. Karnataka has the laws; what it needs is administrative resolve and visible accountability. Laws deter only when violations invite swift and certain consequences.

A BATTLE OF PERCEPTIONS

# Trump enters China on the back foot

Beijing increasingly sees the US as overstretched and unable to sustain resolve in an extended strategic contest

**BRIGADIER ANIL RAMAN (RETD)**

When Donald Trump first confronted China in 2018, he did so from a position of relative American confidence. Today, the atmosphere is very different. Trump now approaches Beijing from a position of relative American weakness not seen in major United States-China summits in recent decades. The weakness is not simply military or economic. It is political, strategic, institutional, and psychological. China's leadership increasingly sees an America struggling to convert immense power into coherent outcomes.

The war in Iran has exposed a strategic drift. Washington's problem was not a military defeat in the conventional sense. American forces, in coordination with Israel, demonstrated overwhelming strike capability and inflicted significant damage on Iranian leadership, missile infrastructure, and naval assets. The problem was that the campaign exposed confused decision-making, shifting objectives, and the inability to translate operational success into strategic victory.

The administration alternated between deterrence, punishment, coercive diplomacy, restoration of maritime security, and implicit regime change. Trump oscillated between declaring victory and threatening escalation, leaving allies uncertain about American intentions.

For Beijing, this reinforced a broader conclusion that has been forming for years: the US remains militarily formidable but strategically inconsistent. Deterrence depends not merely on military strength, but on whether adversaries believe political leadership possesses discipline, clarity, and endurance.

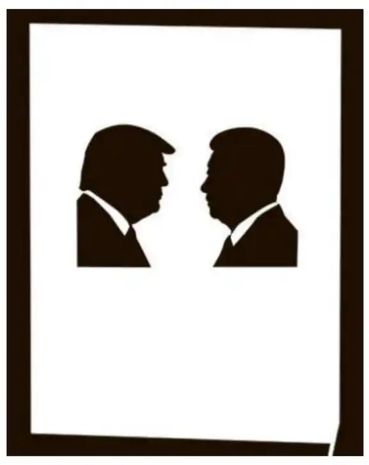
The war also reinforced perceptions of American overstretch. Washington is simultaneously trying to sustain commitments in Europe, manage instability in the Middle East, deter China in the Indo-Pacific, and rebuild industrial capacity at home. The Iran conflict showed how rapidly secondary crises can absorb American attention, resources, and political bandwidth.

Perhaps the most important lesson for Beijing was operational rather than political. Iran achieved partial success using precisely the kind of anti-access and area-denial (A2/AD) strategy Chinese planners are likely to employ in any Taiwan contingency. Iran relied on dispersed missile systems, drones, mobile launchers, maritime disruption, and layered attritional tactics to complicate American operations and impose disproportionate costs.

Even this limited version of an A2/AD architecture forced the US into expensive and cautious operations. Missile defence systems burned through costly interceptors while comparatively cheap drones and missiles generated persistent disruption and economic anxiety.

The lesson for Beijing is not that Iran defeated the US. It is that even a weaker regional power employing denial tactics could generate strategic uncertainty and impose significant operational and industrial costs on Washington.

China's own anti-access architecture



is vastly more sophisticated, combining long-range missile forces, cyber capabilities, naval power, surveillance networks, and industrial depth. This weakens the older perception of effortless American military dominance that underpinned deterrence in Asia for decades.

The Iran war exposed another uncomfortable reality: America's defence-industrial limitations. Modern warfare consumes missiles, interceptors, drones, and precision-guided munitions at extraordinary speed. Pentagon officials have repeatedly warned about insufficient surge capacity for high-intensity conflict against a peer.

China, meanwhile, has spent years expanding missile manufacturing, shipbuilding, electronics production, and industrial mobilisation capacity at scale. In a prolonged confrontation, these advantages in volume and replenishment speed could prove decisive.

The US still possesses superior capabilities in several domains. But China increasingly possesses scale, manufacturing depth, and faster replenishment potential. Xi Jinping's military is hardly free of problems, but leadership instability can often be repaired faster than industrial weakness.

Trump also enters the negotiations personally weakened. Inflationary pressures, tariff instability, market volatility, and growing public fatigue with confrontation have narrowed his political room for manoeuvre. Beijing understands this asymmetry clearly. Xi Jinping can afford patience. Trump increasingly cannot.

Chinese negotiators have long exploited leaders who require visible short-term wins. Trump's political style, which is highly personalised, optics-driven, and focused on dramatic announcements, creates incentives for symbolic agreements rather than durable strategic bargains. The administration's earlier retreats during tariff confrontations also damaged American credibility. Coercive diplomacy works only if adversaries believe escalation will be sustained over time. Beijing increasingly doubts that.

America remains wealthier, technologically innovative, and militarily superior in many areas. The danger is gradual strategic erosion. The war suggested that the US can still strike almost anyone, almost anywhere. However, it may no longer reliably achieve clear political outcomes, maintain domestic consensus, or sustain prolonged conflicts at an acceptable cost.

That perception weakens deterrence and increases the risk of strategic miscalculation. Washington increasingly assumes China's economy is brittle and slowing. Beijing increasingly assumes America lacks the political cohesion and industrial endurance for prolonged confrontation. That makes the situation more dangerous, not less.

### Implications for India

For Asia, the implications are profound. Regional states increasingly fear being trapped between a distracted US and a more confident China. If allies begin doubting American staying power, many will hedge rather than openly align with Washington. The post-Cold War order depended on the assumption that the US could manage escalation and enforce deterrence across multiple theatres.

For India, the implications are especially serious. New Delhi's long-term strategy has depended heavily on the assumption that the US would remain the balancing power preventing Chinese dominance in Asia. If American credibility weakens while China grows more confident, India faces a much harsher strategic environment.

An unfettered China would possess greater freedom to pressure India across the Himalayan border, the Indian Ocean, regional diplomacy, and economic influence in the Global South.

That is the deeper significance of Trump entering Beijing from weakness. America remains stronger than China in many respects. The issue is whether the US still possesses the institutional cohesion, industrial depth, strategic discipline, and political endurance required to sustain a long competition against a rival that increasingly believes history is moving in its direction.

*(The writer is a research fellow at the Takshashila Institution)*

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

# Recipes for disaster, served with love

My earliest disasters came from not knowing the difference between *dals*

**ANNAPOORNA RAVICHANDER**

Right from my childhood, cooking was not something I liked. However, circumstances required me to cook for my family before marriage. My mother was liberal-minded, but social expectations pushed her to believe that a girl should learn cooking to manage after marriage. As the elder daughter, I was gently coaxed into the kitchen.

One of my earliest disasters came from not knowing the difference between *tur* and *chana dals*. My mother asked me to prepare *rasam*, assuming it was simple. Confident in my limited knowledge, I soaked and cooked *chana dal* instead of *tur dal*. In those days, we used a special lead vessel for *rasam*. While seeking clarification from my mother, I left the vessel on the stove. When I returned, it had vanished! Alarmed, I told my mother, who calmly asked me to check under the stove. To my shock, the vessel had melted into a blob beneath it. Undeterred, I tried again using a steel vessel—but added *garam masala* instead of *rasam* powder. My first *rasam* attempt was a complete disaster.

After marriage, my struggles continued due to both inexperience and lack of interest. Survival, however, pushed me to experiment. My husband became the unwilling guinea pig and chief taster. Believing in my abilities, he once invited his boss for *masala dosa*. Unfortunately, I had not mastered *dosas*. My sister and I bravely attempted them. The potato filling turned out well, giving us hope. However, when we poured and spread the batter, things fell apart—literally. The *dosas* crumbled while being lifted. With guests already seated, we cleverly plated the broken pieces, hiding them under better-looking portions. Surprisingly, the boss liked them, and all subsequent *dosas* went through the same 'operation'.

On another occasion, my husband invited colleagues for dinner. We had hired two experienced Maharashtrian cooks. Still, I insisted on making *gulab jamuns*. Using a ready mix, I followed instructions—until I decided to add what I thought was vanilla essence. Instead, I poured in food colouring, turning the sugar syrup purple! To make matters worse, the *jamuns* broke apart and bounced in the oil as if in a game of tennis. The cooks watched helplessly. Eventually, I served the purple *jamuns*, and the guests politely ate them without comment.

Years later, I attempted *rasagullas* using a ready mix. Not wearing my glasses, I misread the water quantity, ending up with a gooey dough. I added maida to fix it, making it firm. The balls expanded beautifully in syrup, and I was thrilled. I called children from the neighbourhood and my son to taste them. However, the *rasagullas* had turned rock hard. The boys spat them out, and my son joked, "Mom, you can punish me any way you like, but not with this food!"

I still cook, though thankfully, the disasters have reduced considerably.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Prime Minister should lead the way

I refer to 'PM urges fuel savings amid West Asia conflict impact' (May 11). The casual manner in which the prime minister made this suggestion along with other advice, such as 'use diesel and petrol only for essential purposes, avoid foreign travel and work from home', is surprising. After more than 50 days of vigorous election campaigning using thousands of litres of fuel and all the time assuring that there was no crisis and no need for panic, the PM found time after a successful campaign to give his attention to issues facing the nation. We are bound by his advice as responsible citizens and sincerely hope now that he has delivered his warning, he does not himself embark on a series of foreign trips.

**K Raman**, Bengaluru

## Half truth

I refer to 'SIR being used to selectively exclude Muslim voters: Prashant Bhushan' (May 11). When Prashanth Bhushan claims SIR is a weapon used by the BJP to keep Muslims away, he tells only half the truth, as he fails to distinguish between Indian Muslims and Bangladeshis, and he conveniently ignores the fact that thousands of Hindus too were excluded in the disputed list of 27 lakh voters.

**C Vijay Kumar**, Bengaluru

## Relief to Raje Gowda

The Supreme Court has given big relief to T D Raje Gowda, the former MLA of Sringeri, after the recounting of postal ballots. The apex court has taken exception to the direction of the Karnataka High Court ordering a recount of postal ballots. While recounting ballots manually, there may be a difference of one or two votes, not in bulk. But votes declared valid in the first counting were found to be 'invalid' on recount. This seems highly improbable.

**T V Pandarinath Naidu**, Kudige

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

It is an economics of patriotism. After fuel, gold has the highest volume of import. The PM is not asking to ban gold, he is asking us to postpone buying it... He asked for restraint.

**Gourav Vallabh**, BJP Leader (on PM's appeal to exercise restraint in fuel consumption, gold buying amid the West Asia crisis)

When a nation is filled with strife, then do patriots flourish.

**Lao Tzu**

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

# Can austerity ease economic stress?

The PM's call for citizens to reduce consumption reframes economic resilience as a test of personal sacrifice

**ASHUTOSH KUMAR THAKUR**

There is a familiar cadence to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's addresses from the ramparts of developmental high ground, particularly when delivered against the backdrop of a city like Hyderabad, which thrives on the very global linkages he now asks us to curtail. On May 10, he called for the Indian citizen to retreat into a shell of performative austerity to help the State address its economic vulnerabilities.

The Prime Minister's appeal to forgo gold for weddings and return to the virtual bunkers of the pandemic era is framed as a patriotic sacrifice. But seen through a critical lens, it reveals a troubling pattern of shifting the burden of macroeconomic stability onto the cultural and social life of the individual. When the State asks a family to abandon the ancestral security of gold or tells a professional to trade the office for a laptop in a bedroom, it is not just suggesting a lifestyle change. It signals a lack of structural confidence.

The logic of saving foreign exchange by cutting fuel consumption and gold imports is, on paper, a sound piece of arithmetic. India's import bill is indeed a heavy anchor. However, framing this as a moral choice for the citizen is a redirection. The high cost of fuel is a global reality, but it is also a consequence of an energy strategy that remains heavily dependent on external shocks despite a decade of promises regarding self-reliance.

By asking people to 'restart' the digital practices of the Corona period, the Prime Minister is essentially privatising the cost of economic resilience. Work from home is not a neutral act. It has profound implications for urban economies, for the small businesses that thrive around office hubs, and for the mental well-being of a workforce that has only recently reclaimed a sense of normalcy. To use a global supply chain crisis as a reason to push citizens back into isolation is to treat the Indian public as a tap that can be turned off whenever the balance of payments feels the heat.

The Prime Minister's focus on the fertiliser subsidy, contrasting the Rs-3,000 global price with the Rs-300 domestic cost, is designed to highlight the government's protective role. It is a potent image: the State as the benevolent provider standing between the farmer and a hostile world.

Yet, this shield is also a trap. The staggering fiscal burden of these subsidies is exactly what makes the exchequer so sensitive to the gold purchases of a middle-class family in Bengaluru or the diesel consumption of a transporter in Hyderabad. The government is essentially admitting that its current fiscal model is so stretched that it requires the cultural surrender of its citizens to remain solvent. Instead of a long-term structural overhaul of agrarian inputs or an aggressive pursuit of green energy, we are offered a narrative of 'resilient austerity' where the people must shrink so the State can spend.

### The Hyderabad contrast

The irony was not lost on those watching the proceedings in Hyderabad. While the Prime Minister laid foundation stones for industrial areas and textile parks, projects built on the promise of movement, connectivity, and consumption, his speech advocated for the opposite. You cannot build a 'manufacturing powerhouse' while simultaneously asking the domestic market to suppress its appetite.

A developed India, or the 'Viksit Bharat' envisioned in these speeches, cannot be built on the back of a deferred wedding or a cancelled commute. True economic sovereignty comes from a robust domestic base that can withstand global shocks.

The Prime Minister's appeal is a masterclass in the politics of the pedestal. It places him in the role of the visionary father, asking for a small sacrifice for the greater good. But in a democracy, the greater good is served when the State builds a structural environment that doesn't rely on the moral policing of its citizens' choices.

As we navigate this season of global friction, the response should not be to retreat. The response should be to demand an economy strong enough to allow an Indian family to celebrate a wedding with their traditions intact and a professional to work in an office without feeling like they are draining the national coffers. Sacrifice is a noble sentiment, but when it becomes a recurring tool of economic policy, it is no longer a virtue. It is a symptom of a deeper, unaddressed malaise.

*(The author writes on politics, society, technology, literature, and the arts, reflecting on the shared histories and cultures of South Asia)*

# Infrastructure attacks and the failure of international laws

N MANOHARAN AND ANUSHA G RAO

One of the distinctive features of modern-day conflicts is indiscriminate attacks on infrastructure, raising serious humanitarian concerns. The ongoing Russia-Ukraine, Israel-Palestine, Israel-Lebanon and Israel/US-Iran conflicts attest to John Abbott's remarks: "War is the science of destruction." Why do belligerents attack infrastructure, and how does international law address them?

Attacks on infrastructure could be in three forms: intentional; incidental; and intentional but claimed as incidental. Infrastructure is intentionally attacked for five broad reasons.

First, to severely dent the opponent's military capacity. Second, to economically punish the adversary and, in turn, cripple its war-waging potential. Third, to disrupt the communications network, making the enemy's military coordination grim. Fourth, to create panic in the enemy lines, especially among the populace, creating an extra predicament. Fifth, to force the enemy to surrender or drag them to the negotiating table.

Seen from a conflict standpoint, infrastructure is of three types: military, civilian and 'dual use'. 'Military infrastructure', as outlined in the Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions, 1977, means 'those objects which by their nature, location, purpose or use make an effective contribution to military action and whose partial or total destruction, capture or neutralisation, in the circumstances ruling at the time, offers a definite military advantage.' The International Humanitarian Law (IHL) does not criminalise attacks on full-fledged military infrastructure.

Civilian infrastructure, as set forth in Article 52(1) of the Additional Protocol I, includes 'all objects which are not military objectives or military infrastructure'. As per Article 54(2) of Additional Protocol I, 'It is prohibited to attack, destroy, remove or render useless objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population, such as foodstuffs, agricultural areas for the production of foodstuffs, crops, livestock, drinking water installations and supplies and irrigation works, for the specific purpose of denying them their sustenance value to the civilian population or to the adverse party...'

A civilian object could be considered a military object under two conditions: one, if the nature, purpose, use and location of the object aid military action; and two, if neutralising such an object gives a definite military advantage to the adversary. Thus, there has to be a "proximate nexus" between the object and the military objective.

The nexus could be at the tactical or strategic levels. The military advantage has to be concrete and immediate and not anticipated or hypothetical. At the same time, even if a particular object is classified as 'military', if it is vital for the survival of the general population, it cannot be attacked. Article 52(3) of the Additional Protocol I states, "If an object which is normally dedicated to civilian purposes, such as a place of worship, a house or other dwelling or a school, is being used to make an effective contribution to military action, it shall be presumed not to be so used."

Even the threat of attacking civilian infrastructure or civilians is unacceptable. This provision, unfortunately, is disregarded by all the combatants of the ongoing wars.

Significantly, IHL offers protection of works and installations containing 'dangerous forces' such as dams, dykes and nuclear power plants even if they turn into military objects. The idea is to avoid any cataclysmic effect.

Notably, due to advances in technology and networks, infrastructure is now more integrated than ever before; an attack on one tends to have a domino effect on others. Attacks on the energy infrastructure of Iran by the US/Israel and by Iran on other Gulf countries have a cascading impact on the energy and economic security of numerous countries, apart from the environmental impact due to pollution caused by attacks on oil wells and refineries.

Under the Statute of the International Criminal Court, intentionally directing attacks against civilian objects constitutes a war crime.

In fact, the principle of distinction is considered one of the 'cardinal principles' of IHL and an 'intransgressible principle of international customary law'. By prohibiting indiscriminate attacks, the IHL advocates for a careful assessment of a particular situation as to whether there are sufficient indications to warrant an attack. Countries like Israel assign the task of 'careful assessment' to their local commanders, who invariably are not 'careful'.

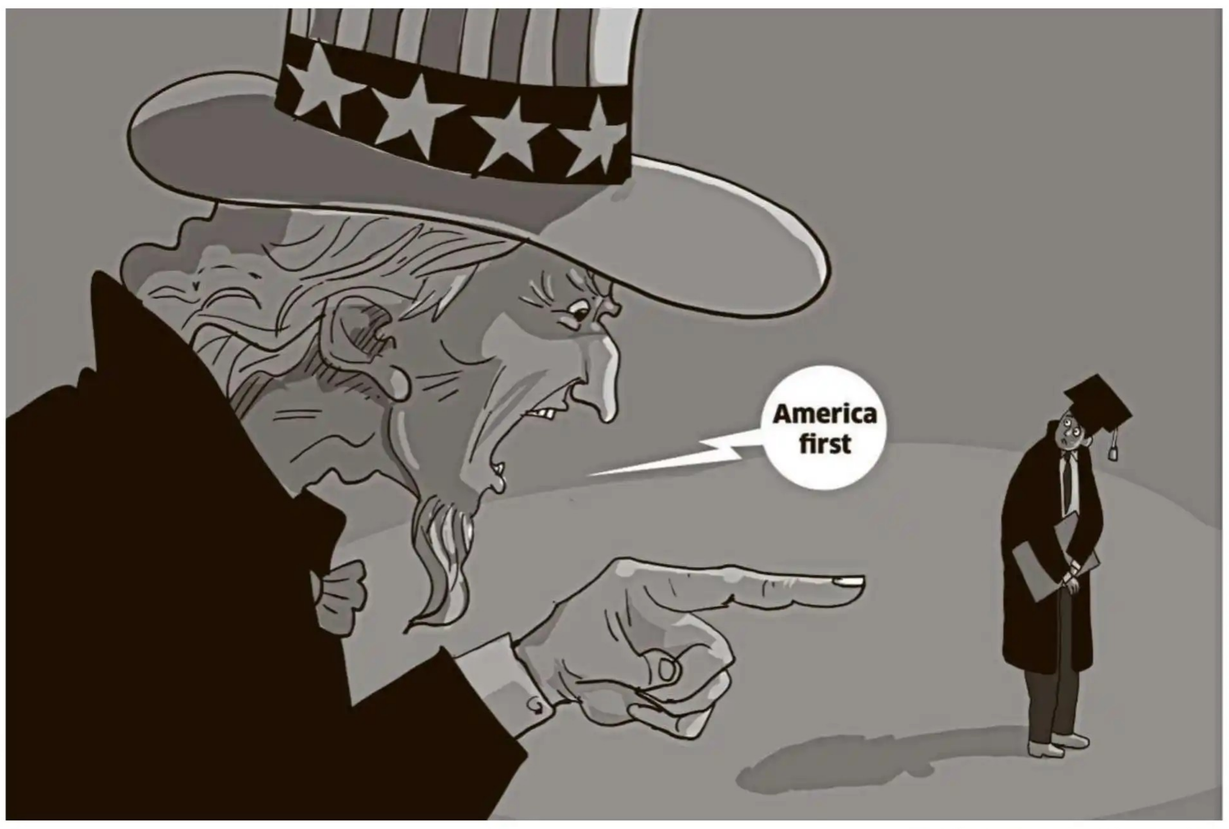
Despite these well-laid-out principles, it is concerning that countries in conflict, especially the powerful ones, violate them brazenly. Arrest warrants issued on Russian and Israeli leaders for attacks on critical infrastructure went unheeded. The issue is, apart from Israel and Iran, major powers like the US, Russia, and China are not part of the Rome Statute of the ICC; they also either have not signed or ratified the Geneva Conventions. It becomes difficult to invoke IHL in that case.

The success of IHL, therefore, lies predominantly on combatants' volition to follow the principles of proportionality and precaution. The combatants should avoid attacking civilian infrastructure and mingling civilian and military objects, especially during the war. IHL should be made a mandatory part of the training of security forces of all countries.

*(Manoharan is a professor and director of the Centre for East Asian Studies, Christ University; Anusha is an advocate practising in Bengaluru)*

Students say they have been passed over for jobs and interviews because of visa restrictions. Some have a Plan B: leaving the United States

AMY QIN AND POOJA SALHOTRA




DH ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

# Tight visa policies dim US dreams for foreign students

For decades, international students hoping to stay in the United States after graduation faced relatively few barriers. Temporary employment programmes designed to attract skilled talent made it easy to transition from studying to working. And employers were eager to hire these students, especially those with STEM degrees.

But that once open road to a job in the United States is now full of hurdles.

The Trump administration has upended the H-1B programme, a skilled-worker visa sought by many international students, by imposing a $100,000 fee on new applicants and introducing a new lottery based on wage levels. And Homeland Security has indefinitely paused the processing of visa applications for people from 39 countries. The director of US Citizenship and Immigration Services added to the uncertainty by questioning the future of the Optional Practical Training programme, which allows international students to work for up to three years in the country after graduation.

There is also a deadline. Most graduating students have up to five months to find a job before being kicked out of the country.

"It's just getting unfriendlier and unfriendlier," said Caroline Liu, 21, a Chinese citizen who is a graduating computer science major at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Supporters of the new visa rules say that lowering the number of foreign students —1.3 million in 2025— will protect jobs for Americans, especially in a challenging job market. Overall hiring has slowed, tech companies are laying off workers by the thousands, and the rise of AI has intensified fears that some jobs will disappear altogether.

The unemployment rate for college graduates increased to 5.6% at the end of last year, compared with an overall rate of 4.3% at the time, according to an analysis from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

Abigail Jackson, a White House spokeswoman, said in a statement that "by discouraging companies from spamming the system and driving down wages," the new fee on H-1B visa applications ensures "that American businesses who actually want to bring high-skilled workers into our country have the certainty they need."

A few changes to immigration rules may benefit some international students. The new $100,000 fee for H-1B applicants applies only to people who do not already live in the country, meaning that international students in the US actually had better odds of winning that visa lottery this year because of fewer applications from people abroad.

In interviews with more than a dozen graduating students, few said they had expected an easy path to finding a stateside job, especially in this market. But the new hurdles, they said, have been frustrating and nerve-racking. Some described promising interviews that suddenly went south when their visa status came up. Others wondered whether the visa question on applications automatically screened them out.

"I applied to over 700 jobs," said Sid Chakravarthy, 21, a graduating math and economics major at Boston University who was born and raised in Dubai. "The first 500 I think I was getting auto rejected, even for jobs I qualified for."

Many students had taken out loans or dipped into family savings with the hope that after graduation, they could stay and gain valuable work experience, which could be another step towards settling in the United States in the long term.

Before graduating in December from a PhD programme at the University of Texas at Dallas, Ghazal Rastegar, 32, had lined up a job in her lab to continue her doctoral research, which focused on easing the long-term side effects of chemotherapy for children with cancer. But she has been unable to start that job because she is from Iran, one of the countries subject to a pause in visa processing. She is now applying for jobs in Europe and Australia, and the chemotherapy project has been delayed indefinitely.

The fast-changing immigration rules and uncertainty have rattled employers.

At Cornell University, the percentage of internal job board postings that offered work visa sponsorship declined to 2.5% in April, from 4.6% in March 2025, said Erica Ford, who works with international students at the university. Interstride, a global job search platform, said that over the past year, it had seen a nearly 25% drop in the number of US positions that were open to international talent.

"I've seen a lot of ebbs and flows of the market over the years," said Michael Ryan, a senior director of employer engagement at William & Mary's business school in Williamsburg, Virginia. "This market for international students has been the most challenging."

Surveys have shown that work opportunities were a major lure for international students choosing US academic programmes. The narrowing of work options could spell trouble for universities, many of which financially depend on international students, who often pay full freight.

It could also upend a crucial talent pipeline. In 2025, nearly half of the PhD and master's diplomas in science, tech and engineering went to international students. Since 2000, more than one-third of American Nobel Prize winners in chemistry, medicine and physics have been immigrants.

But even employers still open to hiring international students say the bar is higher now, given the added paperwork and changing visa rules.

Veronica Maria Parellada Eller, an investment adviser in Miami, said that international students often had strong résumés and language and cultural skills well suited to her boutique wealth management firm, which caters to both American and international clients.

But, Eller said, "it's just so much easier to hire an American student."

Some college career counsellors say they are spending more time explaining the shifting rules to potential employers. They are also advising international students to focus on networking and making a realistic backup plan.

"Before, students might not have taken it so seriously, but now they know they really need one," said Shihling Chui-Dwyer, a career services consultant at Purdue University.

Some international students are going home. Daniela Ramirez, 28, plans to move back to Central America after she graduates with a master's degree in law and diplomacy from Tufts University, near Boston. Last year, federal agents detained her classmate Rumeysa Ozturk for several weeks, after the Trump administration accused her of antisemitism for writing an opinion piece that criticised the university's response to pro-Palestinian demands.

That incident scared Ramirez, who said she had criticised the administration on social media. "I just didn't want to lead a life where I could be afraid," said Ramirez, who is from Honduras.

Even students who have found jobs are wary.

Uzair Sattar, 27, a second-year student at the George Washington University Law School, chose an internship at a law firm with international offices so that if he receives a job offer but is unable to get a visa, he could transfer to an office abroad.

Sattar, who is from Pakistan, said that while he enjoyed living in the United States, he had advised his cousins and friends not to come.

"What Trump has been doing in his second term just makes the US generally a less attractive place to live," he said.

"You could be your best student self, your best work self," he said, but then "an arbitrary immigration regime can make you start from scratch."

**The New York Times**

# The cost of weak cancer policies

B S AJAIKUMAR

India's cancer crisis is not defined by a lack of science. The drugs, treatments and expertise exist. And yet, patients are dying—because the system refuses to let them access it. This is not a story about affordability alone. It is a story about denial.

Consider a 57-year-old woman diagnosed with gallbladder cancer. Her tumour mutation required a targeted therapy drug, Selumetinib, where conventional treatments had failed. But the drug was never administered because the government health insurance scheme did not cover it. The very treatment that could have helped her was kept beyond reach. She died waiting—not for science to catch up, but for policy to allow it.

Then there was a 50-year-old woman with lung cancer. Her doctors recommended Osimertinib, a breakthrough treatment that conventional chemotherapy fails to give. This drug was particularly promising because it has the ability to cross the blood-brain barrier and reach the brain tumour site. The approval never came at the right time.

At what point did we decide that survival should be subject to paperwork? Regulation is necessary, but if there is a weapon that could help a patient fight, who are we to withhold it?

The inequities run deeper still. A modest painter from Raichur—someone who spent his life bringing colour to other people's homes—was diagnosed with rectal cancer. He began treatment in Bengaluru but eventually stopped coming because he ran out of the means. Each trip meant lost wages, travel, accommodation costs, and the slow erosion of his family's financial stability. For him, cancer was not just a disease; it was an economic death sentence.

India prides itself on flagship health insurance schemes—the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS), Employee State Insurance (ESI), and Ayushman Bharat. The system claims political victory, boasting about its coverage under the schemes. But what is the value of "coverage" if it excludes the very treatments that define modern cancer care? Immunotherapy, targeted therapy, genomic testing, PET-CT scans—these are no longer luxuries. They are the standard of care. And yet, for most Indians, they remain out of reach.

Every day, patients walk into hospitals believing they will receive the best possible care. What they do not see are the invisible barriers—policy restrictions, reimbursement ceilings, and bureaucratic approvals—that quietly determine their fate. So we must ask: Are we truly caring for our patients or hoodwinking them? Are we treating cancer, or are we merely managing it within administrative limits?

Because there is a difference between what patients deserve and what they receive. And that gap is costing lives.

The above examples are not isolated cases but a representation of several patients across hospitals. Patients trust the system to provide them with the best possible care. The doctors are well-trained and have the knowledge to deliver the right treatment, but their hands are tied. Between the two, an invisible hand called 'policy', 'regulation' and 'financial constraints' decide who receives what.

Personalised medicine is the future of cancer care, and denying it on bureaucratic grounds only stalls progress. We urge the authorities to reconsider their approach, to listen and to allow innovation to reach those who need it the most.

India needs to move beyond symbolic health coverage and commit to genuine universal healthcare—one that reflects the realities of modern medicine. Introducing co-payment models for high-cost therapies can expand access without overwhelming public finances.

We need to establish structured multidisciplinary bodies involving the treating oncologist/physician, the medical officer in charge, and relevant authorities. These discussions should integrate value-based medicine principles, healthcare cost-benefit analysis, and universal health coverage perspectives. Decisions should be made on a case-by-case basis, considering both the potential clinical benefit and the family's emotional and financial considerations. There must be regular audits to ensure that approved treatments are delivered judiciously and align with clinical best practices.

The question is no longer whether India can afford to do this. It is whether it can afford not to. Because when a patient dies despite the existence of a viable treatment, it is not just a personal tragedy. It is a systemic failure.

*(The writer is a doctorpreneur, oncologist, and chairman of a cancer hospital chain)*

## OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

**50 YEARS AGO: MAY 1976**

### PM, Hoveyda study co-operation in fresh fields

New Delhi, May 11
There were two rounds of talks between the Prime Ministers of India and Iran today when the possibilities of economic co-operation in new spheres were explored. Mr. Amir Abbas Hoveyda, Iranian Prime Minister, told reporters after the morning round of talks with Mrs. Indira Gandhi that though economic co-operation between Iran and India had greatly expanded during the past few years, the two Governments felt that it could be extended to new fields.

**25 YEARS AGO: MAY 2001**

### India, US inch towards strategic partnership

New Delhi, May 11
India and the United States today came closer to becoming strategic partners as the Vajpayee Government came out with a clearer endorsement of President George Bush's May Day proposal on building a new global strategic framework. This became rather obvious at the conclusion of President Bush's special personal envoy and Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage's day-long consultations with the Indian leadership here today.

## OASIS | S RADHA PRATHI

# The snare of greed

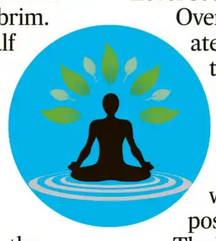
Erich Fromm was spot on when he said, "Greed is a bottomless pit which exhausts the person in an endless effort to satisfy the need without ever reaching satisfaction."

A tale from the parables of Sri Ramakrishna Paramahamsa endorses this observation with a simple yet powerful narrative.

Once, a barber was returning home through the woods. He heard a strange voice address him and offer him seven jars of gold. The barber looked around and could not see anyone. Nevertheless, he responded to the invisible voice saying that he wanted the gift. The voice told him to go home. When the barber reached home, he found seven jars. Joyfully, he opened each one of them and found them filled with gold coins to the brim. However, the last jar was half empty.

The barber felt cheated. Since he could not find the donor, he decided to fill the seventh jar by himself. He melted the few ornaments he had and converted them into coins and put them into the jar. But that did not help.

He cut down his expenses to the bare minimum. He started working harder and requested a raise from the king he worked for. His application was complied with. However, the jar never seemed to fill.



Over a period of time, the desperate barber fell into the endless tunnel of greed. The king noticed his condition and enquired about him. When the barber remained tight-lipped, the king asked him whether the former was in possession of the jars of desire.

The barber was taken aback. Then the king told him that he had also been offered a similar gift in the past by a Yaksha, but he had declined it.

That day, on his way home, through the woods, he addressed the Yaksha at the spot where he had heard the voice and begged that the cursed jars be taken away.

When the barber reached home, he found that the jars had vanished along with the hard-earned money that he had saved by living a hand-to-mouth existence.

The barber lost everything because he craved more when he had more than enough. However, the wise king was aware of the snare of greed. Therefore, he did not want to accept the gold that he had not worked for or been entitled to!

# Adhikari Cabinet expedites land transfer to BSF for border fence

KOLKATA, DHNS

The new BJP government in West Bengal on Monday decided to expedite the process of transferring to the Border Security Force (BSF) the land required to complete the erection of a barbed-wire fence along the India-Bangladesh border in the state, so that illegal immigration from the neighbouring country could be curbed.

The first Cabinet meeting that Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari chaired empowered the state's chief secretary and the secretary of the Department of Land and Land Reform to complete the process within the next 45 days.

The new government also decided to implement the "Annapurna Bhandar" scheme — modelled on the previous regime's "Lakshmir Bhandar" scheme, albeit with a higher payout — from June 1 to provide financial assistance to women.

It also decided to relax the upper age limit for candidates appearing for recruitment examinations for government jobs by five years — from the existing 40 years to 45 years for general-category applicants, and from 43 years to 48 years for applicants from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes.

The meeting of Adhikari and his Cabinet colleagues — Dilip Ghosh, Agnimitra Paul, Ashok Kirtania, Kshudiram Tudu, and Nishith Pramanik — focused mostly on implementing the promises made by the BJP ahead of the just-concluded Assembly polls, which saw the saffron party win in a landslide and end the Trinamool Congress' 15-year rule.

## 3 held for CM aide's murder

**Three men have been arrested from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh in connection with the murder of West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari's aide Chandranath Rath, who was shot dead on the outskirts of Kolkata on Wednesday, reports DHNS. The three accused were remanded in police custody after they were brought to Kolkata and produced before a court in the North 24 Parganas district of the state on Monday. The three were arrested late on Sunday and brought to Kolkata..**

## BJP defends Bengal chief poll officer's appointment as chief secy

**KOLKATA, DHNS:** Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari's government on Monday appointed Manoj Agarwal as its new chief secretary.

The bureaucrat, who oversaw the recent state Assembly polls as the chief electoral officer (CEO), has been drawing flak from the Trinamool Congress (TMC) for being allegedly biased in favour of the BJP.

Agarwal, an IAS officer, was appointed as the new chief secretary just two days after Subrata Gupta, who oversaw the Special Intensive Revision of West Bengal's electoral rolls, was appointed advisor to the CM. Adhikari also picked Surajit Ray — the returning officer in Bhabanipur, where the CM defeated his predecessor and TMC chief Mamata Banerjee — to serve in his office.

The BJP stated that Agarwal had been appointed in keeping with the saffron government's promise to restore the dignity of the law of the land.

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Government of Karnataka
**BIDAR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, BIDAR.**
(Autonomous Institution of Govt. of Karnataka)
Affiliated to Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences,
Karnataka, Bangalore & Recognized by Govt. of India, New Delhi
Phone: 08482 228366/ Fax No: 08482 240322 Website: http://bimsbidar.karnataka.gov.in & e-mail : directorbrimsbidar2007@gmail.com

No :Brims/Tender/News Paper/CR-/2026-27 Date :07-05-2026

**TENDER NOTIFICATION**

Bidar Institute of Medical Sciences, Teaching Hospital, Bidar Invites e-tender for the Supply of Equipments to BRIMS Teaching Hospital BIDARinterested bidder can view, download and apply through ktpp portal www.kppp.karnataka.gov only for more information about can be contact/view at our website www.bimsbidar.karnataka.gov.in.

| Sl.No | Name of the Tender | Tender Indent No | E.M.D | Last date for submission of tender |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | SUPPLY OF EQUIPMENTS TO BLOOD BANK DEPARTMENT BRIMS BIDAR | DME/2026-27/IND2298 | 39,000 | 16-05-2026 Upto 05:30 |
| 2. | Supply, Installation and Commissioning of HD Video Bronchoscope System UNDER KKRDB FOR THE YEAR - 2025-26 | DME/2026-27/IND2149 CALL-2 | 82,425 | 16-05-2026 Upto 05:30 |
| 3. | E –Procurement for Providing Catering Services (Diet Prepared Food ) for In patients of Brims Teaching Hospital Bidar for the year 2026-27. | DME/2026-27/SE0737/ CALL-2 | 2,62,500 | 06-06-2026 Upto 05:30 |
| 4. | Operation and Annual Maintenance of 450 KLD STP with allied components for dispose of the sewage and medical waste at BRIMS Attached Teaching Hospital (District Hospital) BIDAR. (Including man power and Chemicals) | DME/2026-27/SE0738 | 72,500 | 22-05-2026 Upto 05:30 |

Note : For further information about tender please contact Director Brims Bidar office, and if any further changes in tender will be published in KPPP website only.

**Sd/- DIRECTOR**
**Bidar Institute Of Medical Sciences, Bidar.**

DIPR/Bidar/31/KSMC&A/2026-27

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**KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED**
**(Government of Karnataka Enterprises)**
Office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL, Upper Tunga Project Division, Shimoga. Ph: 08182-254832
E-Mail:eeutpsmg@gmail.com

**1.EE/UTPDN/SMG/KNNL/PB-2/2025-26** T.N. **NO-36Call4** **Dt: 07.05.2026**
**2.EE/UTPDN/SMG/KNNL/PB-1/2025-26** T.N. NO-**04** **Dt: 07.05.2026**

**SHORT TERM PERCENTAGE TENDER NOTIFICATION**
**(Through E-Procurement Portal only)**

On behalf of the Managing Director, KNNL, Bengaluru, the under signed invites tender through kpp-portal system from eligible contractors for two(02) works coming under Head of Account 4701 Upper Tunga Project and one(01) work coming under Head of Account 2700/2701 UALIS

**1)** Apprx. Amount put to tender as per estimation is **Rs.253.49 lakhs** (I. No.3743 Call4), **Rs.420.03 lakhs** (I. No.3744 Call4) and Rs.7.04 lakhs (I. No.0461) (excluding GST)

**2)** Last date for questions/clarifications regarding the tender: **13.05.2026 up to 17.30hrs.**

**3)** Date for submission of filled tenders from **07.05.2026 to 16.05.2026 up to 17.30 hrs (during office hours).**

Further details on date of opening the tender /detail of work E.M.D. amount/terms and conditions of the tender/Class of Contractor, etc, can be obtained in the Tender Notification or from the office of the under signed during office hours or in website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ for further details the office of the Undersigned can be contacted during office hours on phone no.08182-254832 Information can be obtained through **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/**

**Sd/-**
**Executive Engineer, KNNL, U.T.P., Division, Shivamogga**

DIPR/SMG/No-42-05/ zenkar/2026-27

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**INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGE (ISEC)**
Dr V.K.R.V. Rao Road, Nagarabhavi PO: BENGALURU-560 072 (Karnataka), India
Tel: 91-080-23215468/5592/5519; Fax: 080-23217008, Web: www.isec.ac.in

AN ALL INDIA INSTITUTE FOR INTER-DISCIPLINARY RESEARCH & TRAINING IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

**DOCTORAL PROGRAMME 2026-27**

Applications are invited from the eligible candidates for the Doctoral Programme 2026-27. The prescribed application form and information brochure can be downloaded from the ISEC Website **www.isec.ac.in.**
The candidates can submit application online and also send completed **Hard copy of the Application** with requisite attachments to the following address on or before **5.30 PM, 12th June 2026.**
The Registrar, Institute for Social and Economic Change,
Dr. V K R V Rao Road, Nagarabhavi P.O., Bengaluru-560 072 (Karnataka)
For detailed information visit our website: **www.isec.ac.in**

**12th May 2026** DIPR/CP/586/Shirdi Sai/2026-27 **Sd/- REGISTRAR**

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**KOF** **ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಹಕಾರ ಎಣ್ಣೆಬೀಜ ಬೆಳೆಗಾರರ ಮಹಾಮಂಡಳ ನಿಯಮಿತ,**
ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಕಛೇರಿ: ನಂ. 11, 4ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಬ್ಲೂ ಕ್ರಾಸ್ ಛೇಂಬರ್ಸ್, ಇನ್‌ಫ್ಯಾಂಟ್ರಿ ಆಡ್ಡ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560001,
ಫೋನ್: 080-25550268, 8073093473/9591812016, ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: pi@kof.coop

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ: ಕೆಓಎಫ್:ಪಿಐ:ಸಾ&ನಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್:2026-27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 11.05.2026

**ಸಾಗಾಣಿಕೆ ಮತ್ತು ನಿರ್ವಹಣಾ ವೆಚ್ಚದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)**

**ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕೆಓಎಫ್, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು** ಇವರು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಬೆಂಬಲ ಬೆಲೆ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ 2026 ಹಿಂಗಾರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಖರೀದಿಸಲಾಗುವ ಸೂರ್ಯಕಾಂತಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನವನ್ನು ಖರೀದಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರದಿಂದ ರಾಜ್ಯ/ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಉಗ್ರಾಣಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಾಗಿಸಲು, ಸಾಗಾಣಿಕೆ ಮತ್ತು ನಿರ್ವಹಣಾ ವೆಚ್ಚದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 50,000/– ಗಳು.
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳು ದಿನಾಂಕ: **11.05.2026** ರಿಂದ **18.05.2026** ರವರೆಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನ Karnataka Co-operative Oilseeds Growers Federation Ltd., ಡಿಪಾರ್ಟ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಲಭ್ಯವಿದ್ದು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರವೇ ಅಪ್ ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಬೇಕು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗೆ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮೇಲ್ಕಾಣಿಸಿದ ಕಛೇರಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಯಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕೆಓಎಫ್, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಪರವಾಗಿ

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**BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION**
Office of the Executive Engineer, Bommanahalli & Arakere Division,
Begur Main Road, Bommanalialli, Bengaluru - 560068.

**Tender Notification No : BSCC/EE/B&AD/Tend-02/2026-27** **Date : 11.05.2026.**

**INVITATION FOR TENDERS (IFT)**

**(Short Term Tender Notification) SINGLE COVER TENDER**
**(Through GoK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)**

The Executive Engineer, Kudlu Division,South Zone - 2,BSCC, Bengaluru-560 068, invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in Bengaluru South City Corporation, Bengaluru or equivalent registration with KPWD/CPWD/BWSSB/ MES/Railways/National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the construction of works detailed in the table below. (Standard Tender Document — KW-1, KW-2 & KW-3).

| S.N. | Name of Work |
|---|---|
| 1 | Annual Maintenance of Footpath, Desilting of Drains, Cleaning of Shoulders, Gratings and resetting of broken slabs and paver blocks and other works in ward no. 53 for the year 2026-27. **Estimate Amount :** Rs.35.00 Lakhs. **EMD:** Rs.35,000.00. **Category :** SC. |
| 2 | Filling of Potholes, Other improvements and maintenance works in Jaraganahalli Sub division (ward no. 53, 54 & 55 - each ward 20.00 Lakhs) roads for the year 2026-27. **Estimate Amount :** Rs.60.00 Lakhs. **EMD:** Rs.1,20,000.00. **Category :** Others. |
| 3 | Annual Maintenance of potholes and maintenance of footpath and desilting of drains and shoulders in Arterial and Sub-arterial roads in Ward No.53,54, & 55 in Jaraganahalli Subdivision for the year 2026-27. **Estimate Amount :** Rs.45.00 Lakhs. **EMD:** Rs. 45,000.00. **Category :** ST. |
| 4 | Providing and Supplying of Tipper & Labours for immersion of Ganesha idols in ward No. 53, 54, & 55 in Jaraganahalli sub Division for the year 2026-27. **Estimate Amount :** Rs. 10.00 Lakhs. **EMD:** Rs. 25,000.00. **Category :** Others. |
| 5 | Annual Maintenance of Footpath, Desilting of Drains, Cleaning of Shoulders, Gratings and resetting of broken slabs and paver blocks and other works in ward no. 54 for the year 2026-27.**Estimate Amount :** Rs.35.00 Lakhs. **EMD:** Rs.70,000.00. **Category :** Others. |
| 6 | Annual Maintenance of Footpath, Desilting of Drains, Cleaning of Shoulders, Gratings and resetting of broken slabs and paver blocks and other works in ward no. 55 for the year 2026-27. **Estimate Amount :** Rs.35.00 Lakhs. **EMD:** Rs.35,000.00. **Category :** CAT-II(A). |
| 7 | Annual Maintenance of Footpath, Desilting of Drains, Cleaning of Shoulders, Gratings and resetting of broken slabs and paver blocks and other works in ward no. 56 for the year 2026-27. **Estimate Amount:** Rs.35.00 Lakhs. **EMD:** Rs.35,000.00. **Category :** ST. |
| 8 | Annual Maintenance of Footpath, Desilting of Drains, Cleaning of Shoulders, Gratings and CAT-resetting of broken slabs and paver blocks and other works in ward no. 57 for the year 2026-27. **Estimate Amount :** Rs.35.00 Lakhs. **EMD:** Rs.35,000.00. **Category :** CAT-II(A). |
| 9 | Annual Maintenance of Footpath, Desilting of Drains, Cleaning of Shoulders, Gratings and resetting of broken slabs and paver blocks and other works in ward no. 58 for the year 2026-27. **Estimate Amount :** Rs.35.00 Lakhs. **EMD:** Rs.70,000.00. **Category :** Others. |
| 10 | Filling of Potholes, Other improvements and maintenance works in Arakere Sub division (ward no. 56,57 & 58 - each ward 20.00 Lakhs) roads for the year 2026-27. **Estimate Amount :** Rs.60.00 Lakhs. **EMD:** Rs.1,20,000.00. **Category :** Others. |
| 11 | Annual Maintenance of potholes and maintenance of footpath and desilting of drains and shoulders in Arterial and Sub-arterial roads Ward No.56,57 & 58 in Arakere Sub division for the year 2026-27. **Estimate Amount :** Rs.45.00 Lakhs. **EMD:** Rs.90,000.00. **Category :** Others. |
| 12 | Providing and Supplying of Tipper & Labours for immersion of Ganesha idols in ward No. 56,57 & 58 in Arakere sub Division for the year 2026-27. **Estimate Amount :** Rs.10.00 Lakhs. **EMD:** Rs.25,000.00. **Category :** Others. |
| 13 | Annual Maintenance for procurement of Cold mix tar bags in Arakere Division. **Estimate Amount :** Rs.18.00 Lakhs. **EMD:** Rs.45,000.00. **Category :** Others. |
| 14 | Emergency Repairs & Maintenance works under Revolving fund for Arakere Division. **Estimate Amount :** Rs.27.00 Lakhs. **EMD:** Rs.54,000.00. **Category :** Others. |
| 15 | Annual Maintenance of Footpath, Desilting of Drains, Cleaning of Shoulders, Gratings and resetting of broken slabs and paver blocks and other works in ward no. 59 for the year 2026-27. **Estimate Amount :** Rs.35.00 Lakhs. **EMD:** Rs.70,000.00. **Category :** Others. |
| 16 | Annual Maintenance of Footpath, Desilting of Drains, Cleaning of Shoulders, Gratings and resetting of broken slabs and paver blocks and other works in ward no. 60 for the year 2026-27. **Estimate Amount :** Rs.35.00 Lakhs. **EMD:** Rs.70,000.00. **Category :** Others. |
| 17 | Annual Maintenance of Footpath, Desilting of Drains, Cleaning of Shoulders, Gratings and resetting of broken slabs and paver blocks and other works in ward no. 61 for the year 2026-27. **Estimate Amount :** Rs.35.00 Lakhs. **EMD:** Rs.35,000.00. **Category :** CAT-II(A). |
| 18 | Filling of Potholes, Other improvements and maintenance works in Bilekahalli Sub division (ward no. 59, 60 & 61 - each ward 20.00 Lakhs) roads for the year 2026-27. **Estimate Amount :** Rs.60.00 Lakhs. **EMD:** Rs.1,20,000.00. **Category :** Others. |
| 19 | Annual Maintenance of potholes and maintenance of footpath and desilting of drains and shoulders in Arterial and Sub-arterial roads in Ward No.59, 60 & 61 in Bilekahalli Sub division for the year 2026-27. **Estimate Amount :** Rs.45.00 Lakhs. **EMD:** Rs.45,000.00. **Category :** SC. |
| 20 | Providing and Supplying of Tipper & Labours for immersion of Ganesha idols in ward No.59,60 & 61 in Bilekahalli sub Division for the year 2026-27. **Estimate Amount :** Rs.7.50 Lakhs. **EMD:** Rs.18,750.00. **Category :** Others. |
| 21 | Annual Maintenance of Footpath, Desilting of Drains, Cleaning of Shoulders, Gratings and resetting of broken slabs and paver blocks and other works in ward no. 62 for the year 2026-27. **Estimate Amount :** Rs.35.00 Lakhs. **EMD:** Rs.70,000.00. **Category :** Others. |
| 22 | Annual Maintenance of Footpath, Desilting of Drains, Cleaning of Shoulders, Gratings and resetting of broken slabs and paver blocks and other works in ward no. 63 for the year 2026-27. **Estimate Amount :** Rs.35.00 Lakhs. **EMD:** Rs.35,000.00. **Category :** SC. |
| 23 | Annual Maintenance of Footpath, Desilting of Drains, Cleaning of Shoulders, Gratings and resetting of broken slabs and paver blocks and other works in ward no. 64 for the year 2026-27. **Estimate Amount :** Rs.35.00 Lakhs. **EMD:** Rs.70,000.00. **Category :** Others. |
| 24 | Filling of Potholes, Other improvements and maintenance works in Bommanahalli Sub division (ward no. 62, 63 & 64 - each ward 20.00 Lakhs) roads for the year 2026-27. **Estimate Amount :** Rs.60.00 Lakhs. **EMD:** Rs.60,000.00. **Category :** SC. |
| 25 | Annual Maintenance of potholes and maintenance of footpath and desilting of drains and shoulders in Arterial and Sub-arterial roads in Ward No.62, 63 & 64 in Bommanahalli Sub division for the year 2026-27. **Estimate Amount :** Rs.45.00 Lakhs. **EMD:** Rs.45,000.00. **Category :** Others. |
| 26 | Providing and Supplying of Tipper & Labours for immersion of Ganesha idols in ward No.62,63 & 64 in Bommanahalli sub Division for the year 2026-27. **Estimate Amount :** Rs.7.50 Lakhs. **EMD:** Rs.9,375.00. **Category :** CAT-I. |
| 27 | Annual Maintenance for procurement of Cold mix tar bags in Bommanahalli Division. **Estimate Amount :** Rs.14.00 Lakhs. **EMD:** Rs.17,500.00. **Category :** ST. |
| 28 | Emergency Repairs & Maintenance works under Revolving fund for Bornmanahalli Division. **Estimate Amount :** Rs.21.00 Lakhs. **EMD:** Rs.42,000.00. **Category :** Others. |
| 29 | Annual Maintenance of Footpath, Desilting of Drains, Cleaning of Shoulders, Gratings and resetting of broken slabs and paver blocks and other works in ward no. 65 for the year 2026-27. **Estimate Amount :** Rs.35.00 Lakhs. **EMD:** Rs.35,000.00. **Category :** SC. |
| 30 | Annual Maintenance of Footpath, Desilting of Drains, Cleaning of Shoulders, Gratings and resetting of broken slabs and paver blocks and other works in ward no. 66 for the year 2026-27. **Estimate Amount :** Rs.35.00 Lakhs. **EMD:** Rs.35,000.00. **Category :** SC. |
| 31 | Filling of Potholes, Other improvements and maintenance works in Singasandra Sub division (ward no. 65, 66 - each ward 20.00 Lakhs) roads for the year 2026-27. **Estimate Amount :** Rs.40.00 Lakhs. **EMD:** Rs.80,000.00. **Category :** Others. |
| 32 | Annual Maintenance of potholes and maintenance of footpath and desilting of drains and shoulders in Arterial and Sub-arterial roads in Ward No.65, 66 in Singasandra Sub division for the year 2026-27. **Estimate Amount :** Rs.30.00 Lakhs. **EMD:** Rs.60,000.00. **Category :** Others. |
| 33 | Providing and Supplying of Tipper & Labours for immersion of Ganesha idols in ward No.65, 66 in Singasandra sub Division for the year 2026-27. **Estimate Amount :** Rs.5.00 Lakhs. **EMD:** Rs.6,250.00. **Category :** CAT-II(A). |
| 34 | Annual Maintenance of Footpath, Desilting of Drains, Cleaning of Shoulders, Gratings and resetting of broken slabs and paver blocks and other works in ward no. 67 for the year 2026-27. **Estimate Amount :** Rs.35.00 Lakhs. **EMD:** Rs.35,000.00. **Category :** CAT-II(A). |
| 35 | Annual Maintenance of Footpath, Desilting of Drains, Cleaning of Shoulders, Gratings and resetting of broken slabs and paver blocks and other works in ward no. 68 for the year 2026-27. **Estimate Amount :** Rs.35.00 Lakhs. **EMD:** Rs.70,000.00. **Category :** Others. |
| 36 | Filling of Potholes, Other improvements and maintenance works in Mangammana palya Sub division (ward no. 67, 68 - each ward roads for the year 2026-27. **Estimate Amount :** Rs.40.00 Lakhs. **EMD:** Rs.40,000.00. **Category :** CAT-II(A). |
| 37 | Annual Maintenance of potholes and maintenance of footpath and desilting of drains and shoulders in Arterial and Sub-arterial roads in Ward No.67, 68 in Mangammanapalya Sub division for the year 2026-27. **Estimate Amount :** Rs.30.00 Lakhs. **EMD:** Rs.60,000.00. **Category :** Others. |
| 38 | Providing and Supplying of Tipper & Labours for immersion of Ganesha idols in ward No. 67, 68 in Mangammanapalya sub Division for the Year 2026-27. **Estimate Amount :** Rs.5.00 Lakhs. **EMD:** Rs.12,500.00. **Category :** Others. |

**NOTE :** 1) The tender document can be downloaded from the KPP portal from dated: 14.05.2026. 2) Prebid Meeting will be held on 18.05.2026@ 15.00 hours 3) Last date submission of tender documents on or before : 22.05.2026 @ 16.00 hours. 4) Technical / Financial will be opened on the website Dated : 25.05.2026 after 11.30hours Onwards.

**Sd/- Executive Engineer, Bommanahalli & Arakere Division**

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**BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION**
Office of the Executive Engineer, Special Division, 2nd Floor, 19th Main, 2nd Block, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-560 010.

No:EE/SD/TEND/03/2026-27 Date: 08.05.2026

**Invitation for Short Term Tender Notification (IFT)**
**(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPPP only)**
**website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

The Executive Engineer, (Special Division), BWCC, Bengaluru invites bids for the following services from reputed Service Provider for the below.

| Sl. No. | Name of the Work |
|---|---|
| 1. | Providing Outsourcing Drivers to BWCC Ambulance Vehicles for the year 2026-27 **Esimate Amount (Excluding GST) 23,69.480/-, EMD Amount ₹ in : 48,000/-.** |
| 2. | Providing Doctors & Paramedical Staffs to Referral Hospitals & Maternity Homes of BWCC on outsourced Basis for a period of 11 Months. **Esimate Amount (Excluding GST) 2,50,75,425/-, EMD Amount ₹ in : 3,76,000/-** |
| 3. | Providing Cleaning Staffs on outsourced basis to Referral Hospitals & Maternity Homes of BWCC for a period of 11 Months. **Esimate Amount (Excluding GST) 2,53,52,269/-, EMD Amount ₹ in : 3,81,000/-.** |

**Calendar of Events: (1)** Date of Commencement of Download of document from **: 12.05.2026, (**2) Date and Time of Pre-bid Meeting on : **14.05.2026 at 3:00 p.m. (3)** Last Date and Time for uploading tenders in KPP Portal on : **30.05.2026 upto 4:00 p.m. (4)** Date and Time of Opening Technical Bid on: **01.06.2026 at 4:30 p.m. (5)** Date and Time of Opening Financial bid on : **02.06.2026 at 4:30 p.m.** (if possible).

**Sd/- Executive Engineer, Special Division, BWCC.**

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**BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION**
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Shivaji Nagar Division, Thimmaiah Road, Bengaluru.

**No: EE/SJN/E-PROC/09/2026-27** **Date: 11-05-2026**

**INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)**
**(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)**

The Executive Engineer, Shivaji Nagar Divison invites **Item Rate** tenders from eligible tenderers for the works detailed in the table below from tenderers e-registered in Bengaluru Central City Corporation/BWSSB/KUSWS&B/PRED/PWD/ Railways/MES/any State or Central Govt. Organization.

| Sl. No. | Name of the work |
|---|---|
| 1 | Providing Temporary Control Room in Vasanthnagar Sub Divisions for the year 2026-27 (7 Months) (Ramaswamy Palya, Vasanthnagar, Jayamahal and Sampangiramanagara). **Approx. value of work: Rs.15.00 Lakhs. EMD: Rs. 37,500/-. Tender Processing Fee (in Rs.):** As per E-Proc portal. **Eligibility of Contractor:** Class III and above. **Period of Completion including Monsoon:** 7 Months. **Remarks (Reserved Category):** General Category. |
| 2 | Providing Temporary Control Room in Halasuru Sub Divisions for the year 2026-27 (7 Months) (Shivajinagar, Bharathinagar, Kamaraja Nagar and Halasuru). **Approx. value of work: Rs.15.00 Lakhs. EMD: Rs. 37,500/-. Tender Processing Fee (in Rs.):** As per E-Proc portal. **Eligibility of Contractor:** Class III and above. **Period of Completion including Monsoon:** 7 Months. **Remarks (Reserved Category):** General Category. |

**Calendar of Events:** (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from KPP Portal of GOK https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in **from 12.05.2026 onwards.** (2) Last date for uploading the Filled Tender Document: **20.05.2026 upto 4.00 p.m.** (3) Date of Opening of Tenders : **21.05.2026 by 4.30 p.m.** if possible or Next working day.

Further details can be had from the office of the above during office hours on all working days or visit KPP Portal website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

**Sd/-**
**Executive Engineer, Shivaji Nagar Division,**
**Bengaluru Central City Corporation**

IN BRIEF

## Rly utilised 98% capex by Feb-end: Govt

▸ **NEW DELHI, DHNS:** Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Monday said the Indian Railways has achieved 98% utilisation of its budgetary allocation for FY26. The entire capital expenditure (capex) was almost fully utilised by the first week of March, and this reflects the accelerated pace of infrastructure projects, he said. The minister said 49,000 km of tracks have been electrified and 36,000 km of new tracks have been added.

## 'Skull cap' row in UP school

▸ **LUCKNOW, DHNS:** A principal and a teacher of a government school in Uttar Pradesh's Sambhal district were suspended for allegedly 'forcing' the Hindu girls to wear 'hijab' and boys to wear 'skull cap' and recite Allama Iqbal's famous 'nazm' (poem) before the morning prayer. A police case has been filed.

## Himanta's oath taking today

▸ **GUWAHATI, DHNS:** Satradhikars — the heads of satras, the Vaishnavite monasteries in Assam — are among the special invitees for the swearing-in ceremony of the Himanta Biswa Sarma-led Council of Ministers on Tuesday. PM Narendra Modi will be the chief guest. Home Minister Amit Shah and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will attend the ceremony.

## No SC breather for TN cop

▸ **NEW DELHI, DHNS:** The Supreme Court has set aside the anticipatory bail granted to a suspended officer of the Tamil Nadu Police who was accused of sexually harassing a law college student aboard a moving train. A bench of Justices Pankaj Mithal and S V N Bhatti passed the order on May 7 on a plea by the complainant against a Madras High Court order of January 7, in which it had granted anticipatory bail to the accused, Sheik Abdulla Mohammed.

## DMK leader faces CBI probe

▸ **NEW DELHI, DHNS:** In a setback to DMK leader V Senthil Balaji, the Supreme Court on Monday refused to interfere with a Madras High Court order, which directed a CBI probe into the alleged Rs 397-crore transformer scam during his tenure as the state electricity minister between 2021 and 2023. A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta said the investigation should proceed independently.

# Congress summons more Kerala leaders to Delhi for CM talks

### IUML voices anger at selection delay; BJP keeps up jibes

**ARJUN RAGHUNATH**
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
DHNS

**DEADLOCK PERSISTS**
- AICC consults AK Antony
- IUML backs Satheesan, adds pressure
- UDF resentment surfaces over selection delay
- IUML's Hameed warns of worker anger

Senior Congress leaders from Kerala, including former Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee presidents, have been summoned to Delhi for consultations on the chief minister's selection. The three contenders to the post are K C Venugopal, V D Satheesan, and Ramesh Chennithala.

The prolonged delay in naming a CM — even a week after the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF)'s victory — has triggered resentment among coalition partners and drawn continued jibes from the BJP.

Kerala PCC ex-presidents K Muraleedharan and V M Sudheeran confirmed that the leadership had asked them to reach Delhi for talks. K Sudhakaran MP, Mullappally Ramachandran, and M M Hassan were also being consulted.

The AICC leadership is also learnt to be holding talks with veteran leader AK Antony.

Sources said that since the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) had openly backed Satheesan, the AICC leadership was finding it difficult to ignore him, given the IUML's key role in ensuring thumping victories for Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra in the Wayanad Lok Sabha seat. IUML leaders are also learnt to have conveyed the ground situation to Priyanka.

There are reports that since KPCC president Sunny Joseph is most likely to become a minister, the AICC will soon find a replacement for him. Kodikunnil Suresh MP and Anto Antony MP are among the probables.

Meanwhile, strong resentment within the UDF over the delay in CM selection has begun to surface.

IUML Malappuram district general secretary and former MLA P Abdul Hameed told a news channel that elected MLAs were unable to face voters and party workers owing to the delay in forming the government.

"Trying to justify the delay by citing that it took 50 days for the BJP's CM selection in Delhi could even invite a slap from party workers," he said.

Ramesh Chennithala, responding to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's jibe over the prolonged CM selection, pointed out that the BJP's delay in announcing the Delhi CM. He also asked if Modi was suffering from memory loss.

## Fiscal burden looms large

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS:** As top Congress leaders in Kerala remain locked in a tussle over the chief minister's post, the new government faces a host of challenges, especially fiscal.

The exchequer — with total debt and liabilities of around Rs 4.5 lakh crore, besides commitments such as a hike in welfare pensions for over 60 lakh beneficiaries and free travel for women in transport buses — could mean the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) government is in a tight spot.

Towards the fag end of its tenure, the previous CPM-led LDF regime had constituted a pay commission to revise state government employees' salaries.

This could add a financial burden of around Rs 25,000 crore. Arrears from the previous pay revision are also unpaid.

The UDF, under the leadership of V D Satheesan as Opposition leader, had strongly accused the LDF government of financial mismanagement and tax-collection lapses. The LDF, in turn, blamed the Central government for the state's financial crunch.

**SPENDING SPECTRE**
- UDF had assured that welfare pension would go from Rs 2k to Rs 3k
- Promise of free bus rides for women will require additional financial support for KSRTC
- UDF further pledged Rs 1k per month for college-going girls

Even as the Pinarayi Vijayan government often boasted of better financial management amid fund shortages, government sources said it had kept a host of payments pending.

In its election manifesto, the UDF had assured that the welfare pension would be increased from Rs 2,000 to Rs 3,000.

The promise of free bus rides for women would also require additional financial support for the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation, which is already in a deep financial crisis.

The UDF further pledged Rs 1,000 per month assistance for college-going girls, besides several other sops.

# Left vows introspection after poor poll show

**SHEMIN JOY**
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The CPM and CPI on Monday described the defeat of the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government in the Kerala Assembly election as a "serious setback" and "cause for concern", vowing to conduct "serious introspection" on the reasons behind the debacle, as well as on the BJP registering victories in three seats.

M A Baby

After a two-day Polit Bureau meeting, CPM General Secretary MA Baby said the LDF had suffered a "serious setback" in Kerala after 10 years of continuous rule.

He described the BJP's victory in West Bengal, achieved through what he called a "communal, divisive and vitriolic hate campaign" and the misuse of the Election Commission and other central agencies, as a "major blow".

Baby told a press conference that necessary course correction and rectification would be undertaken to strengthen the party, following an "in-depth" review in the coming days to identify the "weaknesses responsible for this setback".

On Kerala loss, he said the conduct of the Congress — which made "baseless allegations and spread canards" against the CPM, along with its "soft approach" towards communal forces — contributed to the BJP's growth in the state.

Baby added that the BJP benefited in West Bengal from strong anti-incumbency against the "corrupt and authoritarian" Trinamool Congress government. "Together with the BJP's re-election in Assam with an increased majority, we notice an ascendancy of Hindutva-communal, right-wing forces," he said.

Referring to Tamil Nadu, he said the BJP and its allies tried to sabotage the electoral verdict by using the Governor's office and sought to block the formation of a government led by TVK's Vijay.

CPI General Secretary D Raja said that the LDF's defeat, despite its pro-people measures, was a cause of concern for the Left and the democratic movement in the country.

## Oppn dubs Modi's appeals to citizens 'proof of failure'

**NEW DELHI DHNS:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for citizens to take measures — including judicious use of petrol and diesel — to tackle the West Asia crisis drew Opposition criticism on Monday, with the Congress saying he is "lecturing" the country after elections and that the "compromised PM" is no longer capable of running the nation.

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi said Modi's demands for "sacrifices from the public" are not sermons but "proof of failure." In 12 years, Modi has brought the country to such a pass that the public must be told what to buy, what not to buy, where to go and where not to go, he posted on X.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge added that the country is being preached to only after the polls are over.

Kharge added that the Congress had flagged every crisis — the "ruin" of the economy, the rupee's "continuous" fall, shortage of fuel, LPG and fertilisers, the "looming threat" to food security, the crisis of MSMEs, and much more — when the West Asia war erupted.

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav said the crisis was acknowledged by the BJP only after the elections ended, but added, "There is only one 'crisis' for the country, and its name is BJP."

### PM reiterates call to save forex

**AHMEDABAD, DHNS:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday reiterated his appeal to citizens to avoid unnecessary activities that involve spending foreign exchange.

Describing the conflict in West Asia as one of the biggest crises of the decade, Modi urged people to reduce their consumption of petrol, diesel, edible oil, and other imported goods as much as possible until the situation improves.

The prime minister was addressing a public gathering in Vadodara. Modi also appealed to people to postpone buying gold for the time being, saying it involves spending foreign currency at a time of economic uncertainty.

Modi said the coronavirus outbreak had become the biggest crisis of the past century, and that the rising tensions in West Asia were now affecting the entire world, including India.

"This is one of the biggest crises of the decade. The government is trying to minimise its impact on individuals. However, the country needs public participation, and we all have to fulfil our responsibilities as citizens of India," Modi said.

# Centre rules out bailout package for oil companies

### OMCs incurring losses of up to Rs 1,000 cr per day

**AJITH ATHRADY**
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Centre has ruled out any immediate bailout package for state-run oil marketing companies (OMCs) even as they grapple with massive losses due to under-recoveries triggered by the ongoing West Asia crisis.

"There is no proposal for any support (package) to oil marketing companies right now," Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary in the Union Petroleum Ministry, said on Monday.

The clarification comes amid mounting pressure on the state-run firms, which are incurring losses of up to Rs 1,000 crore per day after buying crude, gas, and LPG at higher international prices while selling petrol and diesel at unchanged two-year-old rates to shield consumers.

Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Sunday highlighted the grim situation, stating that OMCs are staring at under-recoveries of Rs 2 lakh crore, with losses projected to touch up to Rs 1 lakh crore in the current quarter. He, however, emphasised that the companies have ensured uninterrupted supply.

**WEST ASIA CRISIS**
- Petroleum Ministry says no support package now
- Under-recoveries touch Rs 2 lakh crore due to West Asia crisis
- Losses projected at Rs 1 lakh crore this quarter
- Govt says India remains 'oasis of calm' globally

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday urged citizens to reduce consumption of petrol and diesel, use public transport more, adopt car-pooling, and shift to electric vehicles to ease pressure on fuel supplies amid global uncertainties.

Clarifying the intent behind the appeal, C Senthil Rajan, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, said the PM's message focused on efficient utilisation of resources. Oil Secretary Neeraj Mittal sought to allay public concerns, stating there is no shortage of fuel. He said that India has remained "a relative oasis of calm" compared to several other countries that have imposed fuel rationing.

## 'Ample fertiliser available': Govt appeals against panic-buying

**NEW DELHI, DHNS:** The Centre on Monday reiterated that there are sufficient fertiliser stocks available to meet the Kharif sowing season demand and appealed to farmers not to indulge in panic buying.

"Fertiliser security remains comfortable and well managed. As of the date for the season of Kharif 2026, the stock is more than 51%," Aparna S Sharma, additional secretary in the department of fertilisers, told media persons here.

"This is significantly higher than the normal buffer stock level of 33%," she added.

"There has been some panic buying initially. Our appeal is that ample stock is available," she said.

She pointed out that the price of some of the fertilisers, like urea, has nearly doubled in the global market. But the maximum retail prices (MRP) of major fertilisers have remained stable, Aparna said.

The department of agriculture has assessed the total fertiliser requirement for Kharif 2026 at 390.54 lakh tonnes. The government is supplementing domestic production with timely imports.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the Somnath Amrut Mahotsav, which marks 75 years of the inauguration of the restored Somnath temple in Veraval, Gujarat, on Monday. Mentioning how former PM Jawaharlal Nehru opposed the temple's reconstruction, Modi attacked the Opposition over what he called as "appeasement politics", reports DHNS. PTI

## VB-G RAM G Act to come into force from July 1

**NEW DELHI, DHNS:** The Central government announced on Monday that the Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act would come into force across the country from July 1, replacing the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).

The new law, referred to as the VB-G RAM G Act, provides for 125 days of guaranteed wage employment to rural households in a financial year, compared to 100 days under the existing MGNREGA.

According to a Ministry of Rural Development notification, the law will come into force in all states and UTs on July 1. In another notification, the ministry stated that the MGNREGA would be repealed by the new law.

It assured that the transition from MGNREGA to the new framework would be seamless and without disruption to workers.

"Ongoing works under MGNREGA as on June 30 shall be saved and carried over to the new framework seamlessly," said the notification, adding that existing e-KYC-verified MGNREGA job cards would remain valid until the new "gramin rozgar guarantee cards" were issued.

Workers would not be denied employment due to pending e-KYC, and registration for those without job cards would continue at the gram panchayat level, it added.

The ministry said draft rules on wage payments, grievance redressal, allocation norms, and transitional provisions were being prepared.

## ED arrests former TMC minister in civic body scam

**KOLKATA, DHNS:** The Enforcement Directorate on Monday arrested former state minister and Trinamool Congress leader Sujit Bose in connection with a money laundering case in connection with a municipal recruitment scam.

Bose was arrested under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act after he was questioned for 11 hours, sources said. He was an Minister of State (Independent) in the Department of Fire and Emergency Services during the regime of the Trinamool Congress.

The ED was probing into the alleged role of Bose in the irregularities in the recruitment of nearly 150 employees in several municipalities. The central agency searched the residential premises of the three-time legislator in October 2025.

The 63-year-old leader lost to BJP's Sharadwat Mukherjee in the just-concluded Assembly elections.

# 'WB leaders can appeal if win margin less than deleted voters'

**ASHISH TRIPATHI**
NEW DELHI, DHNS

**SC OBSERVES**
- Apex court is told of instances where win margins were less than number of voters deleted
- Will examine matter if proper application is filed, it says

The Supreme Court on Monday said former West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee and others could file fresh applications on their claim that the victory margins were less than the number of voters deleted during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in various Assembly constituencies across the state.

Senior advocate and TMC MP Kalyan Banerjee contended before a bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi that victory margins in 31 seats were less than the number of votes deleted, and that deletions and loss margins were similar in many cases.

Opposing the submissions, senior advocate Dama Seshadri Naidu, appearing for the Election Commission (EC), contended that the remedy was an election petition.

Banerjee contended that one candidate lost by 862 votes in a constituency where over 5,432 persons were removed from the electoral rolls. The bench said an interlocutory application could be filed with the requisite details.

Senior advocate and TMC MP Menaka Guruswamy submitted that at the present rate, the appellate tribunals would take at least four years to dispose of the appeals.

She asked the bench to order that SIR deletions could be grounds for a poll petition. "How can we pass such an order?" asked the bench, adding that it would examine it if a proper application was filed.

## Finish gherao probe in two months, NIA told

**NEW DELHI, DHNS:** The Supreme Court on Monday asked the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to complete its probe into the April 1 violence in West Bengal's Malda district — in which a mob confined seven judicial officers for nine hours — within two months.

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi said the NIA should file its report before the court of competent jurisdiction after completing the investigation within the stipulated time.

During the hearing, the bench asked Additional Solicitor General S V Raju, "Is it (the probe) complete?" He said he would file a detailed status report. "We are, however, of the view that let the NIA complete the investigation at the earliest, preferably within a period of two months...," the bench said.

## Labour codes benefit Modi's friends: Kharge

**NEW DELHI, DHNS:** Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday attacked the Narendra Modi government for fully operationalising the four labour codes by notifying final rules after "cowardly" waiting for the Assembly elections to conclude.

Mallikarjun Kharge

He described the codes as the "greatest setback" for workers' rights since Independence.

In a statement, Kharge said that for crores of Indian workers, these "anti-worker" codes herald a future of hire-and-fire policies, contract employment, and restricted space for unionisation — all implemented without consultation. "These codes, which benefit only the PM's industrialist friends, are the greatest setback for workers' rights," he said.

## Vijay visits Stalin, Udhaya, other leaders

**E T B SIVAPRIYAN**
CHENNAI, DHNS

Heralding a new era in Tamil Nadu politics, which has historically been driven by personal rivalries, Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay on Monday had a "heartwarming" meeting with his predecessor, M K Stalin, and his old friend Udhayanidhi as he drove down to their residence for a "courtesy call".

Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay felicitates former CM M K Stalin in Chennai on Monday. PTI

Displaying political maturity, Vijay also met MDMK leader Vaiko, PMK chief R Anbumani, and the NTK's S Seeman at their residences. However, he didn't visit AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami.

This is probably the first time in the state's history that a new CM has called on the previous one after assuming office.

The only precedent was DMK founder C N Annadurai calling on Congress veteran K Kamaraj and Dravidian legend Periyar before being sworn in as the CM after an emphatic victory in 1967.

The warmth was palpable through the 10-minute meeting as Leader of the Opposition and MK Stalin's son Udhay hugged Vijay at the entrance, while Stalin greeted him with a bear hug outside the drawing room. Attentive to customs, Vijay removed his shoes before entering the residence.

Another heartwarming scene was at Vaiko's residence, where his household staff posed for a photograph with the CM, admitting that they had voted for TVK.

## EPS faces revolt as MLAs push for TVK tie-up

**CHENNAI, DHNS:** Plunging the party into yet another crisis, a majority of newly elected AIADMK MLAs in Tamil Nadu have revolted against their general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami by refusing to elect him as the Legislature Party leader.

The MLAs want the AIADMK to support the TVK government rather than sit in the Opposition benches in the Assembly.

This marks the fourth rebellion in the AIADMK since Jayalalithaa's death in 2016 — the first and third led by O Panneerselvam and the second by TTV Dhinakaran.

Around 30 MLAs, led by senior leaders C Ve Shanmugam, SP Velumani and C Vijayabaskar have refused to endorse Palaniswami as their leader and are demanding he step down, taking moral responsibility for successive electoral defeats. The AIADMK has not won an election since Jayalalithaa's death.

# NEET-UG leak row rocks Rajasthan

## 15 career counsellors detained; NTA claims full security protocol followed during exam

RAKHEE ROYTALUKDAR
JAIPUR

**PAPER LEAK**

- Probe began after a handwritten "guess paper", circulated in Sikar district, reportedly matched a large portion of the final test
- Probe team trying to determine whether the case is linked to an organised cheating syndicate
- More than 22 lakh students appeared for NEET-UG this year

Authorities are investigating allegations of a possible paper leak in the NEET-UG 2026 medical entrance examination after a handwritten "guess paper" circulated in Sikar district reportedly matched a large portion of the final test.

The Rajasthan Special Operations Group (SOG) has detained around 15 career counsellors in Sikar, Jhunjhunu and Dehradun and is analysing chats, call records and mobile applications to determine whether an organised paper leak took place.

Officials said a 300-question "guess paper" was circulated on May 1, two days before the May 3 examination. Of those, 140 questions allegedly matched the final NEET paper word-for-word, accounting for 600 marks out of the total 720.

Investigators are also examining claims that the order of questions and answer options in the actual examination matched those in the circulated document.

Sources said the material was allegedly first circulated by a Sikar-based counsellor who reportedly received it from a person linked to Kerala. The document later spread through WhatsApp groups, coaching networks and student accommodations.

According to sources, the "guess paper" was initially sold for Rs 5 lakh before copies began circulating more widely at lower prices.

The SOG is trying to determine whether the case is linked to an organised cheating syndicate or whether the document was simply an unusually accurate question bank, commonly circulated before competitive examinations.

The National Testing Agency (NTA), which conducts NEET, said the examination was held under "full security protocol", including GPS-tracked transport of question papers, AI-assisted CCTV monitoring, biometric verification and 5G jammers at centres.

The agency said it received information regarding alleged malpractice on May 7 and forwarded it to central agencies the following day for verification and action.

More than 22 lakh students appeared for NEET-UG this year across 551 Indian cities and 14 international centres. Rajasthan alone accounted for around two lakh candidates.

# NCW flags POSH violations at TCS Nashik office

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Accusing Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) of non-compliance with the Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) Act guidelines, the National Commission for Women (NCW) has urged authorities to take appropriate action in the Nashik sexual harassment case.

The women's body has said that the case was one of pervasive harassment, denigration of religion, and systemic bullying.

The NCW had taken suo motu cognisance of the matter following serious allegations levelled by several women employees at a TCS office in Maharashtra's Nashik.

Under NCW Chairperson Vijaya Rahatkar's directive, a Fact-Finding Committee was constituted comprising retired Bombay High Court judge Justice Sadhna, former Haryana DGP B K Sinha, Supreme Court advocate Monika Arora, and senior NCW coordinator Lilabati.

The committee visited Nashik on April 18 and 19, and interacted with victims, TCS' POSH Internal Committee (IC) members, police officers, and key witnesses.

It subsequently prepared a detailed report of over 50 pages with more than 25 recommendations, which it submitted to Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on May 8.

The report stated that the NCW found a "deeply disturbing and toxic workplace environment marked by pervasive sexual harassment and abuse of authority".

The report also said that the accused — identified as Danish, Tausif, and Raza Memon, protected by employee Ashwini Chainani — had assumed effective control of the TCS Nashik office and targeted young and vulnerable women employees, harassing them sexually, emotionally and mentally.

## Nida Khan sent to judicial custody

**MUMBAI, DHNS:** In a significant development vis-à-vis the alleged sexual harassment and religious conversion case involving employees of IT major Tata Consultancy Services at its Nashik BPO, a court on Monday sent prime suspect Nida Khan to 14 days' judicial custody.

Nida Khan was arrested on the intervening night of May 7-8 in the Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar district.

She was produced before the Nashik Road Court, which sent her to police custody until May 11.

Police personnel escort Nida Khan, at the Additional Sessions Court in Nashik. PTI

On the expiry of her police remand, she was produced before the Nashik Road Court on Monday, where Additional Sessions Judge K G Joshi sent her to judicial custody until May 24.

## Tarapur Unit 2 to restart soon

**TARAPUR (PALGHAR), DHNS: The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board has approved the restart and continued operation of Unit-2 of Tarapur Atomic Power Station in the Palghar district.**

**In fact, TAPS comprises four nuclear power stations: TAPS Unit-1, TAPS Unit-2, TAPS Unit-3 and TAPS Unit-4. The 4 plants are run by Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd.**

# Ex-armyman goes on killing spree, shoots 3 dead in 26 hrs

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

A retired armyman allegedly shot dead three people within a span of 26 hours in Uttar Pradesh before being apprehended.

Two of the victims were killed in separate trains in Chandauli district, while a woman was shot dead in a hospital in the same district.

The alleged killer, identified as 45-year-old Gurpreet Singh alias Virendra, was caught by locals when he tried to flee after killing the woman. He was thrashed by the mob before being handed over to the police.

Sources said Singh, who retired from the army six years ago and worked as a security guard in Bihar, was being interrogated by police. Officials claimed he confessed to the killings.

However, the motive behind the killings remains unclear.

According to police sources, Singh allegedly shot dead a passenger, identified as Dinesh Shah of Gaya district in Bihar, while he was travelling with his family on the Kolkata-Jammu Tawi Express near Deen Dayal Upadhyay railway station around midnight on Sunday. He managed to escape after the train slowed as it approached Varanasi station.

Dinesh was shot in the ear when he stepped out of the toilet, according to fellow passengers. Shah was travelling to Naimisharanya, a Hindu pilgrimage site in Uttar Pradesh.

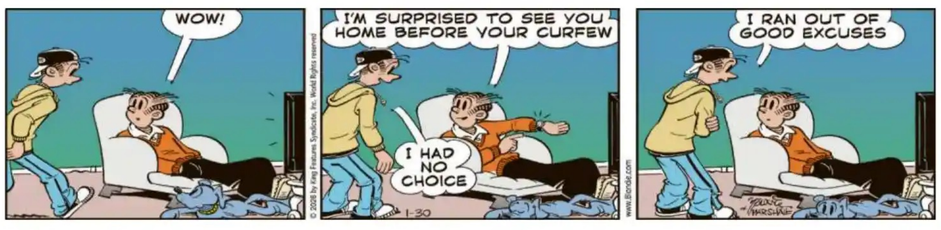
On Sunday morning, he allegedly shot dead a man, identified as Managru of Ghazipur district, on a passenger train near Sakaldiha railway station. He threw the body onto the tracks before escaping, sources said.

On Monday morning, Singh reportedly walked into a private hospital in Chandauli and shot a woman lying on her bed, killing her on the spot.

# MISCELLANY

## ◆ COMICS ◆

### Blondie




### Hagar The Horrible

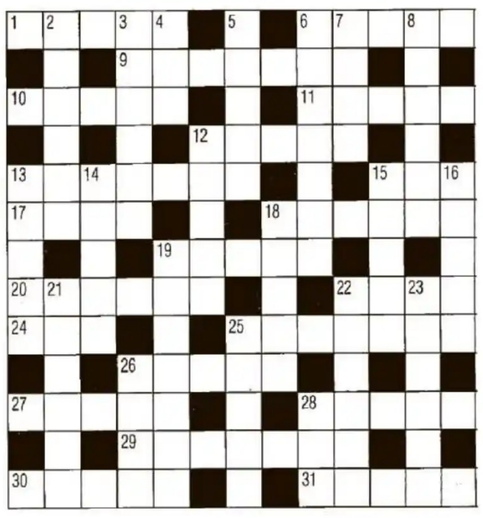
### Beetle Bailey

### Peanuts

OKAY, YOU STUPID BEAGLE...
I HAVE A JOB FOR YOU
I WANT YOU TO TYPE THIS MANUSCRIPT FOR ME, AND IF YOU DON'T DO A PERFECT JOB, I'M GONNA PUNCH YOUR LIGHTS OUT!
THEY NEVER TOLD US ABOUT HER KIND IN TYPING CLASS...

### Marvin

## CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12414



**CRYPTIC**

**ACROSS**

1 That which is hastily diminished? (5)
6 Try something terribly easy around the leisure centre (5)
9 Six-nil for a time? That's bad! (7)
10 Dragged to the altar? (5)
11 Go for a huge piece ñ scoop it out! (5)
12 Claps carelessly on one's head! (5)
13 In a dream, be worshipful about one (7)
15 Girl in a million? (3)
17 In the end, one gets the girl (4)
18 Promise as a certainty (6)
19 She may be shy about her record (5)
20 Handy new fuel for the Americans (6)
22 Oven with a halo round it when working? (4)
24 Be briefly doubtful of what might be detected (3)
25 Links some business up with the French (7)
26 Geographical location of Tammany Hall (5)
27 Musical instrument of Shakespearean character (5)
28 Those magnetic foreigners? (5)
29 Wherein, shopping, one can get scared (but not wet) (7)
30 Untidy as an eating place? (5)
31 State taxes revised (5)

DOWN

2 Part of a pressure cooker, doubtless (6)
3 A balanced, regular guy (6)
4 Passed over just the same (3)
5 Something to do with bread (5)
6 Shingle formation academically studied (7)
7 Pack up and post, perhaps (4)
8 Does he show degrees of sportsmanship? (6)
12 Maybe sly about a bit of a fib, the witch! (5)
13 Again, transport can be a problem (5)
14 Faults, perhaps, but they can be gripping! (5)
15 Decoration taking Malcolm about half an hour (5)
16 Abbreviation used for convenience (5)
18 It has strings attached (5)
19 A slimmed-down outline can mean a lot to a woman (7)
21 Lying back looking lethargic (6)
22 Disagree with an attitude at work (6)
23 Girl serenaded endlessly? (6)
25 Weight of a cart, possibly? (5)
26 Copy a girl, sadly (4)
28 Puppeteer's favourite? (3)

**EASY**

**ACROSS**

1 A rod (5)
6 Of sound or hearing (5)
9 Without purpose (7)
10 Faith (5)
11 Dispatches (5)
12 Aircraft detection system (5)
13 Desert (7)
15 Encountered (3)
17 Norway's capital (4)
18 Overcast (6)
19 Animal's nose (5)
20 Sounded a horn (6)
22 Savant (4)
24 Appropriate (3)
25 Colonises (7)
26 Men's public lavatory (5)
27 Baffling question (5)
28 Boy's name (5)
29 Not artificial (7)
30 Cant (5)
31 Unadorned (5)

**DOWN**

2 Pulsates (6)
3 Gambling place (6)
4 Equipment (3)
5 Opposite of dirty (5)
6 Assail (7)
7 Operator (4)
8 Certainly (6)
12 Circular (5)
13 Major artery (5)
14 Give out (5)
15 Wall painting (5)
16 Sorts (5)
18 Heals (5)
19 More than a few (7)
21 Be against (6)
22 Saunter (6)
23 Star sign (6)
25 Portly (5)
26 DNA unit (4)
28 Head covering (3)

**SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12413**

**CRYPTIC**

**ACROSS:** 3, Start 8, Simon 10, Ar-row 11, Van 12, Pluto 13, Tenable 15, Top-ic 18, Tea 19, Alpine 21, Me-dia-te 22, Rue'd 23, Real 24, Slu-ice-s 26, Cr-aft-y 29, Ram 31, Tiler 32, Heroine 34, Low-Ed 35, VAT 36, L-U-nik 37, Renew 38, X-enon.
**DOWN:** 1, Liver(-pool) 2, Donated 4, Tale 5, Rattle 6, Tr-O-op 7, Robin 9, Man 12, Plainly 14, Bed 16, Piles 17, Cells 19, Attired 20, Tract 21, Medal 23, Remove-d 24, Stroke 25, Car 27, Rig up 28, Felix 30, Inter 32, Hero 33, I-an.

**EASY**

**ACROSS:** 3, Waste 8, Widow 10, Orbit 11, Tor 12, Recur 13, Negates 15, Poses 18, Gag 19, Serene 21, Beguine 22, Plus 23, Mood 24, Harpoon 26, Cellar 29, Pun 31, Steer 32, Derides 34, Major 35, Top 36, Donor 37, Motor 38, Never.
**DOWN:** 1, Bites 2, Forages 4, Apes 5, Toupee 6, Error 7, Vixen 9, Dog 12, Regular 14, Tag 16, Set on 17, Seedy 19, Snapper 20, Specs 21, Bugle 23, Monitor 24, Harare 25, Our 27, Ethos 28, Lemon 30, Depot 32, Dome 33, Dot.

## ◆ SU-DO-KU-6903 ◆

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | 5 | | | |
| | | 6 | | | | 1 | | 8 |
| | 8 | | | | 7 | | 2 | 3 |
| 7 | 5 | | | | 6 | | | |
| 2 | | | 9 | | 8 | | | 6 |
| | | | 2 | | | | 7 | 1 |
| 5 | 3 | | 7 | | | | 9 | |
| 6 | | 2 | | | | 8 | | |
| | | | 3 | | | | | |

hard

**SOLUTION TO 6902**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 7 |
| 8 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 4 |
| 6 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 5 |
| 2 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 1 |
| 5 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 3 |
| 4 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 9 | 6 |
| 1 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 8 |
| 7 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 9 |
| 9 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 2 |

**To solve the puzzle:** To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

## SCRABBLE™

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| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | Triple Word Score | RACK 1 |
| G2 | R1 | U1 | A1 | O1 | N1 | L1 | | |
| | | | | | | | | RACK 2 |
| T1 | R1 | V4 | P3 | E1 | I1 | A1 | | |
| | | | | | | | | RACK 3 |
| D2 | O1 | T1 | L1 | I1 | A1 | U1 | | |
| | | | | | | | | RACK 4 |
| K5 | A1 | H4 | S1 | E1 | I1 | P3 | 4th Letter Triple | |

PAR SCORE 175-185
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

**YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| F4 | R1 | O1 | W4 | Z10 | Y4 | | RACK 1 | = 72 |
| E1 | M3 | O1 | T1 | I1 | V4 | E1 | RACK 2 | = 86 |
| B3 | R1 | U1 | S1 | H4 | E1 | D2 | RACK 3 | = 89 |
| A1 | U1 | K5 | L1 | E1 | T1 | S1 | RACK 4 | = 83 |
| | | | | | | | JUDD'S TOTAL | 330 |

PAR SCORE 215-225

## JUMBLE

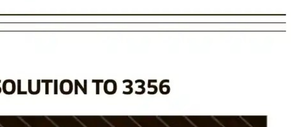
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DYSAL

SRMTU

NRUIPT

CITNEE


THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek
Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Facebook
Ah! I see you're a fellow soldier.
Don't mind him.
Did it get cold in here?
They say the place is haunted.
Bug off! I drink alone, you twit!
10 30
THE GHOST DIDN'T GET ALONG WELL WITH OTHERS BECAUSE HE WAS ---

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: KNELT MACAW ACCENT BUCKET
Answer: When she didn't like the birthday gift he gave her, he was — TAKEN ABACK

## HITORI-3357

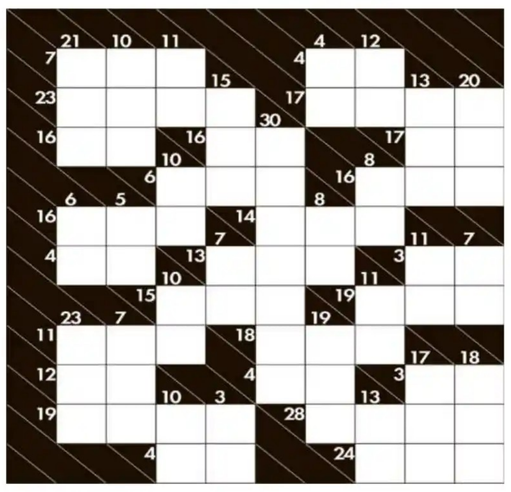
| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 6 |
| 1 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 7 | 3 |
| 4 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 6 | 3 |
| 5 | 8 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 2 |
| 2 | 3 | 8 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 1 |
| 1 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 3 |
| 3 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 5 |

**SOLUTION TO 3356**

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 7 | 8 | 2 | ■ | 6 | 5 | 3 |
| 2 | ■ | 1 | 5 | 4 | ■ | 7 | ■ |
| ■ | 5 | ■ | 4 | ■ | 1 | 8 | 2 |
| 7 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 3 | ■ |
| 5 | ■ | 7 | 6 | ■ | 8 | ■ | 4 |
| 6 | 4 | ■ | 3 | 2 | ■ | 1 | 8 |
| 8 | ■ | 4 | 1 | 3 | 2 | ■ | 5 |
| ■ | 3 | 2 | ■ | 7 | 5 | 4 | 1 |

**To solve the puzzle:** Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

## KAKURO- 3357



**SOLUTION TO 3356**

**To solve the puzzle:** Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

## SU DO KU X - 3913

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ■ | | | 5 | 4 | | | | ■ |
| | ■ | 5 | | | | | ■ | 8 |
| | | ■ | | | | 1 | | |
| | | | 1 | 2 | ■ | | | 4 |
| | | 1 | | ■ | | | 5 | |
| | | | ■ | 7 | ■ | 9 | | 2 |
| | | ■ | 6 | | | ■ | | |
| 7 | 3 | | 2 | 8 | 9 | | ■ | |
| | 6 | | | | 7 | 8 | | ■ |

**SOLUTION TO 3912**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 2 |
| 2 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 7 |
| 3 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 8 |
| 4 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 9 |
| 1 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 5 |
| 5 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 1 |
| 7 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 2 | 4 |
| 9 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 6 |
| 6 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 8 | 3 |

**To solve the puzzle:** The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

ART OF THE POSSIBLE

# Election of Indian student to Scottish Parliament sparks row

**Manivannan's victory has drawn both praise for diversity and criticism over immigration policy**

LONDON, PTI

An Indian doctoral student from Tamil Nadu, who moved to Scotland on a student visa just four years ago, has turned a local election victory into a wider debate on immigration, identity and representation in UK politics.

Q Manivannan, who identifies as non-binary and says they represent "diversity in power", is among the newest members of the Scottish Parliament, also known as Holyrood.

The PhD student was elected to the devolved Scottish Parliament on the Edinburgh and Lothians East regional list for the pro-independence Scottish Greens. Results of last week's election were announced on May 9.

"My name is Dr Q Manivannan. I am a transgender Tamil immigrant, and my pronouns are they/them," Manivannan said while standing alongside supporters.

"I am, to some in this country, everything that the hateful despise, and I am standing here now as your MSP (Member of the Scottish Parliament) with care. They say politics is the art of the possible. A politics of care, I would say, expands what is possible for everyone left behind, pushed out or never invited in," the Indian student added. Born in Tamil Nadu, Manivannan moved to Scotland in 2021 on a student visa to study international relations at the University of St Andrews.

Ahead of the election victory, the Indian national had been crowdfunding online for a Graduate Visa, which allows doctoral students to live and work in the UK for three years after their student visa expires. "Every barrier placed before me within the Greens was also a reason for us to push further. This is what diversity in power looks like," said Manivannan, who uses they/them pronouns. Their election has drawn criticism from anti-immigration voices over rules allowing some foreign nationals living in Scotland to contest elections.

"Dr Manivannan may be a nice young person. But I don't want to live in a country where people on student visas can become elected representatives to national parliaments," said Robert Jenrick, a former Conservative minister and now shadow chancellor for the anti-immigration Reform UK.

The Indian student's candidature for MSP was possible under rules allowing Commonwealth citizens living in Scotland, including some without indefinite leave to remain or permanent residency, to stand in elections.

"Politicians should commit to removing the automatic right of Commonwealth citizens to vote in UK elections, and the ability of non-British citizens to stand in British elections," said Migration Watch UK, an independent pressure group campaigning for tighter immigration controls.

Co-leader of the Scottish Greens Gillian Mackay told reporters that the party would support Manivannan through the process of applying for a new visa.

"There will have to be a renewal of Q's visa. That is a process they will have to complete during the parliamentary session," the Greens said. Manivannan's campaign pamphlet describes them as a politics PhD student, arts worker, co-convenor of the Scottish Greens' Palestine Solidarity Group, former United Nations health and disability worker, and immigrant.

# US-Iran deadlock fuels fresh energy fears

**Hormuz disruption pushes oil prices higher**

DUBAI/WASHINGTON, REUTERS

**CRUDE SURGE**

- Brent crude prices rose nearly 2% to around $103 a barrel amid concerns over restricted shipping through the Strait of Hormuz.
- OPEC oil output fell in April to its lowest level in more than two decades due to disruptions linked to the conflict.
- Trump said Monday he plans to suspend the federal gasoline tax temporarily to help Americans cope with soaring fuel prices.

US President Donald Trump's swift rejection of Iran's response to a US peace proposal has fuelled concerns that the 10-week-old conflict will drag on and continue to disrupt shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, pushing oil prices higher on Monday.

Days after Washington floated a proposal aimed at reopening negotiations, Iran on Sunday released a response focused on ending the war on all fronts, including in Lebanon, where US ally Israel is fighting Iran-backed Hezbollah militants.

Tehran also demanded compensation for war damage, emphasised its sovereignty over the Strait of Hormuz, and called on the United States to end its naval blockade, guarantee no further attacks, lift sanctions and remove restrictions on Iranian oil sales.

Within hours, Trump dismissed Tehran's offer in a social media post. "I don't like it — totally unacceptable," Trump wrote on Truth Social, without giving further details. The US had proposed ending the fighting before starting talks on more contentious issues, including Iran's nuclear programme. Tehran responded on Monday by defending its position.

"Our demand is legitimate: demanding an end to the war, lifting the US blockade and piracy, and releasing Iranian assets that have been unjustly frozen in banks due to US pressure," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baghaei said. "Safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz and establishing security in the region and Lebanon were other demands of Iran, which are considered a generous and responsible offer."

Brent crude oil futures lost some strong early gains on Monday but were still trading nearly 2% higher at around $103 a barrel, as the deadlock left the Strait of Hormuz largely closed.

Before the war began on February 28, the narrow waterway carried one-fifth of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas supplies and has since become a central pressure point in the conflict.

Disruption caused by the near-closure of the strait has forced oil producers to cut exports, and OPEC oil output dropped further in April to its lowest level in more than two decades, according to a Reuters survey published on Monday.

Traffic through the Strait of Hormuz is at a trickle compared with levels before the war. Shipping data from Kpler and LSEG showed that three crude oil tankers exited the waterway last week with tracking systems switched off to avoid possible Iranian attacks.

A screengrab from a video shows a Turkish Airlines aircraft on the runway after one of its wheels caught fire during landing at the Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu, Nepal, on Monday. PTI

# Turkish Airlines plane catches fire while landing in Kathmandu

**All 277 passengers and 11 crew members escape safely**

KATHMANDU, AFP

Hundreds of passengers and crew aboard a Turkish Airlines flight to Nepal were safely evacuated on Monday after the plane's landing gear caught fire while landing at Kathmandu airport, officials said.

The right landing gear of the jet, carrying 277 passengers and 11 crew members from Istanbul, caught fire during landing, according to Gyanendra Bhul, a spokesperson for Nepal's civil aviation authority.

"Fire was visible during the landing. Investigations are ongoing. All passengers are safe," Bhul told AFP. Bhul said the incident caused the closure of the airport's only runway for almost two hours in the morning, but it has since reopened.

Turkish Airlines said passengers were evacuated via emergency slides after "smoke was observed coming from the landing gear during taxiing".

"A technical inspection of our aircraft has been initiated by our authorised teams," Yahya Ustun, a spokesperson for Turkish Airlines, said in a post on social media. "Initial examinations indicate that the smoke was caused by a technical malfunction in a hydraulic pipe."

An additional flight has been scheduled for the return leg of the service. The Himalayan nation is home to some of the world's most remote and challenging runways, flanked by snow-capped peaks and terrain that poses difficulties even for experienced pilots.

## Pak extends countrywide austerity drive

**ISLAMABAD, PTI:** Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday extended the countrywide austerity drive until June 13 amid uncertainty caused by the failure of the US and Iran to reach a deal to end the conflict in West Asia during a fragile ceasefire.

The government announced several measures on March 9 following disruptions to energy supplies after the US and Israel launched attacks on Iran on February 28. The austerity measures were initially announced for two months. The measures have now been extended for over a month after US President Donald Trump rejected Iran's proposal to end the months-long war, calling it "totally unacceptable".

# 3 more hantavirus cases detected after evacuation

THE HAGUE, AP/PTI

A French woman and two Americans either tested positive for hantavirus or showed symptoms on Monday as countries around the world scrambled to repatriate passengers from a cruise ship hit by an outbreak and place them under quarantine or isolation.

Passengers from the ship began flying home aboard military and government aircraft on Sunday after the vessel anchored in the Canary Islands. Personnel wearing full-body protective suits and breathing masks escorted travellers from the ship to shore in Tenerife in an operation that continued on Monday.

The French woman tested positive for hantavirus and her condition worsened overnight in hospital, French Health Minister Stéphanie Rist said on Monday. She was among five French passengers repatriated from the MV Hondius to Paris on Sunday and developed symptoms during the flight, Rist told public broadcaster France Inter. One of the 17 American passengers evacuated from the ship and flown to Nebraska also tested positive for hantavirus but was not showing symptoms, while another passenger had mild symptoms, US health officials said late on Sunday.

People wearing hazmat suits help passengers evacuate the hantavirus-stricken cruise ship MV Hondius on Tenerife on Sunday. AFP

The flight landed in the early hours of Monday near awaiting buses and police vehicles.

The Americans were to be taken first to the University of Nebraska Medical Center. "One passenger will be transported to the Nebraska Biocontainment Unit upon arrival, while other passengers will go to the National Quarantine Unit for assessment. The passenger going to the Biocontainment Unit tested positive for the virus but does not have symptoms," said Kayla Thomas, a spokesperson for Nebraska Medicine.

SMART TECH

## AI runs experimental Swedish cafe

STOCKHOLM, AP/PTI

The coffee may be poured by human hands, but behind the counter, something far less traditional is running the show at an experimental café in Stockholm.

San Francisco-based startup Andon Labs has placed an artificial intelligence agent nicknamed "Mona" in charge at the eponymous Andon Café in the Swedish capital. While human baristas still brew coffee and serve customers, the AI agent — powered by Google's Gemini — oversees almost every other aspect of the business, from hiring staff to managing inventory.

It remains unclear how long the experiment will continue, but the AI agent appears to be struggling to turn a profit in Stockholm's competitive coffee market. The café has generated more than USD 5,700 in sales since opening in mid-April, but less than USD 5,000 remains from its original budget of more than USD 21,000. Much of the money was spent on one-time setup costs, and organisers hope the business will eventually stabilise and become profitable. Many visitors have found the concept amusing. Customers can pick up a telephone inside the café and ask the AI agent questions directly. "It's nice to see what happens if you push the boundary," customer Kajsa Norin said. "The drink was good."

Experts say the project raises ethical concerns ranging from AI's broader role in society to its involvement in job interviews and employee evaluations. Emrah Karakaya, an associate professor of industrial economics at KTH Royal Institute of Technology, compared the experiment to "opening Pandora's box" and warned that putting AI in charge could create significant problems.

## Nepal SC issues order against dissolving student unions

**KATHMANDU, PTI:** Nepal's Supreme Court on Monday issued a short-term interim order directing authorities not to implement a decision to dissolve student unions in universities.

The ruling Rastriya Swatantra Party, in its commitment paper, had promised to scrap political party-based student unions. A single bench of Justice Shrikant Paudel ordered the concerned authorities not to enforce the decision taken by the University Coordination Committee on April 3, according to court officials.

Deepak Dhami, president of the All Nepal National Free Students Union, and others had filed a writ petition challenging the decision to abolish student organisations in universities. The Office of the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers were named as respondents in the case. The court summoned both parties for discussion on May 18 and directed the defendants to submit a written response within 15 days of receiving the notice through the Office of the Attorney General.

Last month, Prime Minister Balendra Shah instructed universities and health institutions in the Himalayan nation to dismantle political party-based student and employee unions.

## Trump to visit China from May 13 to 15

**BEIJING, PTI:** US President Donald Trump will travel to China on an official visit from May 13 to 15 at the invitation of his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping, a foreign ministry spokesperson announced on Monday.

This will be the first visit to China by a US president in almost nine years. Trump himself was the last US president to visit China, during his first term in 2017.

President Xi will have in-depth exchanges of views with President Trump on major issues concerning China-US relations and world peace and development, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said.

## WORLD AT A GLANCE

A woman and a child cross the street as Israeli security forces patrol during a military raid in the Qalandia refugee camp, south of Ramallah in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, on Monday. AFP

### 6 migrants found dead in cargo train boxcar in US border town

▸ Six people were found dead inside a cargo train boxcar at a Union Pacific rail yard near the Mexico border in Laredo, Laredo (Texas).

The people were found on Sunday as workers were inspecting one of the cars, said Jose Baeza, a spokesperson for the Laredo Police Department. They were unresponsive when discovered, he said. Police and fire crews arrived at the scene shortly afterwards. They confirmed that six people — five men and one woman — were dead, Baeza told reporters. The victims were not identified. Baeza said autopsies would be conducted. He did not immediately respond to a text message requesting further information on Monday. The cargo car's travel history was not known. Laredo is a busy land port of entry for trade on the US-Mexico border and a common route for the illegal movement of people, although authorities have not said whether the six deaths were related to a smuggling operation. Last year, two smugglers were sentenced to life in prison for what remains the nation's deadliest human smuggling attempt across the US-Mexico border.

### Thaksin released from prison

▸ Thaksin Shinawatra, whose political rise and downfall deeply divided Thai society for decades, was released from a Bangkok prison on Monday after serving eight months of a one-year sentence on a corruption-related conviction, AP/PTI reports from Bangkok.

A crowd of about 300 supporters and political allies gathered outside Klong Prem Central Prison to welcome the 76-year-old billionaire populist. Thaksin was a telecommunications magnate who founded his own political party in 1998 and served as prime minister from 2001 until he was ousted in a military coup in 2006 while abroad.

Thailand's former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra after his release from the Klong Prem Central Prison in Bangkok on Monday. AFP

### Philippine VP impeached

▸ An overwhelming majority in the House of Representatives of the Philippines voted on Monday to impeach Vice President Sara Duterte over allegations of unexplained wealth and threats to have the president assassinated, as the rift between the camps of the country's top two officials escalated, AP/PTI reports from Manila.

The House, which is dominated by allies of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., voted 257-25, with nine abstentions. The two impeachment complaints against Duterte, which will now be elevated to the Senate for trial, mark an initial setback to her plans to seek the presidency in 2028. Shortly before the impeachment vote in the House, Senate President Vicente Sotto III, who had vowed to immediately put the vice president on trial, was ousted by 13 of the 24 senators.

### Russia, Ukraine trade blame

▸ A US-brokered ceasefire between Vladimir Putin's Russia and Volodymyr Zelenskyy's Ukraine was due to expire on Monday, with both sides accusing each other of violating the 72-hour arrangement as American and European officials considered how to steer the warring countries towards further talks, AP/PTI reports from Kyiv.

Ukrainian authorities said on Monday that Russian drones, bombs and artillery shelling struck civilian areas in the northeastern Kharkiv and southern Kherson regions, killing at least two people and wounding seven others. Russia's Defence Ministry on Sunday accused Kyiv of committing more than 1,000 ceasefire violations, according to state media reports.

Singer Sarah Engels, representing Germany with the song 'Fire', poses at the opening ceremony of the Eurovision Song Contest in Vienna on Monday. AFP

**AUSTERITY APPEAL:** PM's call to citizens kicks up widespread debate among various sectors

# IT firms may not opt for full remote working

## Currently, most firms follow hybrid model of 3 days work from office

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

After the pandemic, IT services firms, startups, and GCCs gradually settled into a hybrid model — employees in the office for 2-3 days, WFH for the rest. But that balance could be tested as Prime Minister Narendra Modi nudges Indians to consider working from home. HR leaders say GCCs, IT firms, and startups have the infra to flip back to full remote. Yet a complete return to WFH looks unlikely. Hybrid remains the middle ground companies prefer — preserving collaboration, mentorship, and culture, while giving talent the flexibility they now expect.

An industry expert told *DH* that it took IT services firms nearly two years to get employees back to the office, even one day a week. A three-day WFO model is now standard across most companies. The exception is TCS, which mandates five days a week in the office for all staff.

According to Aditya Narayan Mishra, MD and CEO of CIEL HR, a fully remote-working model is unlikely to happen, especially after many firms have spent the last few years rebuilding office-led collaboration and implementing structured hybrid policies. However, PM Modi's appeal amid the fuel supply concerns may prompt companies to temporarily increase flexibility around work from home, particularly in large metro cities where daily commuting can become challenging.

*DH* sent queries to multiple IT services firms regarding their WFO policies, but none responded. The expert noted that Cognizant mandates three days of WFO, while Infosys limits staff to 10 WFH days a month. Though policies may loosen gradually and firms could become more flexible, he added that a complete shift to WFH isn't feasible.

Reacting to the WFH advisory by the PM Modi, industry body Nasscom said the technology industry in India continues to operate on well-established hybrid work models, with organisations calibrating work-from-home and in-office arrangements based on role requirements and customer needs. In light of the ongoing West Asia tensions, companies have adopted prudent energy management measures across campuses, including optimising non-essential consumption, rationalising select facility services, and enabling remote or hybrid work wherever operationally appropriate to reduce overall energy usage and commuting.

"These measures are not new, but are part of the industry's broader approach to operational resilience and sustainability. India's technology sector has well-established business continuity frameworks and distributed delivery models, which enable seamless operation with flexibility when required, while ensuring uninterrupted service delivery. While this remains an evolving situation, we are closely monitoring developments and remain engaged with industry stakeholders and government authorities to ensure a coordinated and responsible response," Nasscom added.

### What Modi said and its implications

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday asked the citizens to use public transport and use electric vehicles as well as work from home. He also asked for cutting down on non-essential foreign travel and gold purchases

### IMPACT

**1 GOLD**

India imported **721.03 tonnes** of gold valued at **$71.98 bn**

- The PM's appeal aims to cut India's **$72 billion gold import bill.** Even a **10-15% drop** in discretionary buying could save **$7-10 billion in forex annually**
- Around **5-8% of buyers** may shift to digital or recycled gold, **reducing import pressure**
- If **10% of India's annual weddings opt** for lighter jewellery or digital gold, forex savings could reach **$3-5 billion a year**

**3 WFH**

Many IT services companies are following hybrid work models and HR experts say complete work from home is not feasible

**2 TRAVEL**

Total overseas spending estimated at **$30-32 billion**

- An approximate decline of 10-15% in international leisure travel bookings expected in premium holidays, luxury travel
- Domestic tourism to benefit; shorter-duration trips expected to gain momentum
- 3.27 crore Indians travelled abroad last year

**4 TRANSPORT**

The EV penetration is miniscule in the country and public transport networks are not sufficient enough to switch over immediately

- India's forex reserves dropped to $690.69 billion during the week ended May 1
- The forex reserves had expanded to an all-time high of $728.49 billion during the week ended February 27
- India imported crude oil worth $134.7 billion in 2025-26
- India imported edible oil worth $19.5 billion in FY26
- $14.5 billion worth of fertilisers imported in FY26

**Source:** Commerce Ministry/Augmont, IATO

## PM's appeal on gold buying rattles bullion markets

### Shares of large jewellery firms decline significantly

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

A jewellery shop employee displays gold chains at a store in Kalbadevi, Mumbai, on Monday. PTI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal urging Indians to avoid purchasing gold jewellery for a year in view of the prevailing global economic situation sent shockwaves across Mumbai's bullion and jewellery market on Monday, triggering concern among traders, artisans and jewellery companies. Mumbai's iconic Zaveri Bazaar — the country's largest gold-trading hub —witnessed anxious discussions among jewellers and artisans over the possible impact on business sentiment and consumer demand, while shares of major jewellery firms took a sharp hit on Dalal Street.

Shares of Titan Company, Kalyan Jewellers India, Senco Gold and Sky Gold & Diamonds, among others, declined significantly during Monday's trading session, reflecting investor concerns over a potential slowdown in gold jewellery sales.

The Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) said the industry understood the larger national concerns and would stand with the government during challenging times.

"The gem and jewellery industry fully understands and respects the appeal made by the PM in view of the current global situation and the larger national interest. As responsible stakeholders, we stand with the nation," said Kirit Bhansali, Chairman, GJEPC.

He pointed out that the sector is among the country's largest employment generators, supporting nearly five million workers, artisans and small businesses. "The industry will continue to work responsibly while safeguarding these livelihoods," he added.

Bhansali said the Indian gem and jewellery industry has historically demonstrated resilience during difficult policy phases, including the Gold Control Act era and the 80:20 import rule regime.

The All India Gem and Jewellery Domestic Council (GJC) said the focus should also be on mobilising the massive stockpile of idle household gold already available in the country.

"The PM's appeal regarding responsible gold consumption reflects the larger national concern of rising imports and pressure on forex reserves," said Rajesh Rokde, Chairman, GJC.

## Stocks of travel, aviation firms fall

**NEW DELHI, PTI:** Shares of tour, travel-related service providers and aviation firms dropped on Monday amid rising oil prices and Prime Minister Narendra Modi calling for postponing overseas travel for one year to save foreign exchange due to the West Asia crisis.

The stock of Yatra Online tanked 5.41%, Thomas Cook (India) Ltd lost 3.88% and Easy Trip Planners declined 3.27% on the BSE.

Shares of InterGlobe Aviation, which owns and operates airline IndiGo, tumbled 4.94% and SpiceJet declined 4.72%.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, traded 3% higher at $104.4 per barrel.

## India has 60 days of crude oil and natural gas in stock: Centre

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India has 60 days of crude oil, 60 days of natural gas, and 45 days of LPG in stock, and citizens need not panic and rush to retail outlets, the Union Government said here on Monday, following a review of the West Asia crisis.

After the fifth meeting of the Informal Group of Ministers on the West Asia crisis, chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, the Centre said, "India has 60 days of crude oil, 60 days of natural gas, and 45 days of LPG rolling stock. The foreign exchange reserves stand at a comfortable $703 billion... There is no reason for anxiety, and no reason for any citizens to rush to retail outlets."

The government's statement comes in the wake of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal to the public to conserve energy and foreign exchange, triggering economic concerns in the market and dragging the rupee to a new low.

"The country is secure, and there is no shortage of any petroleum product, even as most other nations have taken emergency measures to dramatically reduce domestic consumption," the Centre said.

India is among a few countries where petroleum prices have held steady through the period of global volatility after more than 70 days since the conflict started, whereas in many nations, prices have increased by 30-70%.

The oil marketing companies, according to officials, have absorbed losses of close to Rs 1,000 crore a day, with under-recoveries running to nearly Rs 2 lakh crore in Q1 of 2026, so that the burden of global astronomical prices is not passed to Indian citizens.

Chairing the meeting, Rajnath said the current focus would be to ensure uninterrupted energy flow, secure the maritime routes and maintain stability. He also called for "reevaluation of strategic reserve requirements" to tackle issues arising out of supply-chain disruptions, with future energy security in mind.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh chairs the fifth meeting of the Group of Ministers in New Delhi on Monday. PTI

## 'India to grow 6.6% in FY27; needs package on BoP front'

**NEW DELHI, PTI:** India's economy is projected to grow at 6.6% in FY2026-27, while a comprehensive package is required on the Balance of Payments (BoP) front amid rupee depreciation and higher oil price, an SBI Research report said on Monday.

The report said the rupee, which has weakened much in the recent period "through clouds on external macros, as also unabated speculative forces" needs structural changes on BoP front, streamlining the guard rails of import substitution, export competitiveness, integration in global value-chain.

The rupee has breached the 95-mark against the dollar that has strengthened due to rising global uncertainties, triggered by the West Asia conflict.

"There is now a felt need to put in place a comprehensive package to address BoP," SBI Research said, making a strong case for diaspora bonds.

With the country's macro fundamental getting distorted as Brent prices hover above $100, and transport and insurance costs spiking, there is a need to put in place measures that alleviate BoP position, it said.

"...if USD/INR rate (is) at Rs 95, then the economy size will fall to $4.04 trillion and the dream to be $5 trillion economy may be achieved in the year FY30," the report said.

SBI Research's suggestion also comes against the backdrop of PM Narendra Modi, on Sunday, highlighting the need to save foreign exchange due to the West Asia crisis as well as judicious use of fuel, postpone purchase of gold and foreign travel for one year.

## Reliance to revamp Jio IPO, cutting capital flight risk

BLOOMBERG

Reliance Industries Ltd. is gearing up to offer only new shares in the initial public offering of Jio Platforms Ltd., without selldowns by existing holders, according to people familiar with the matter, reducing the risk of more international capital leaving India.

Jio's IPO may fetch as much as $4 billion, people familiar with the matter have said. That would make it the country's largest ever listing, more than the $3.3 billion Hyundai Motor India Ltd. raised. The company is aiming to file its listing paperwork this month, the people said, in an apparent delay on the back of a market downturn stemming from the Iran war.

A Reliance Industries representative did not immediately respond to a request for comment. *The Economic Times* first reported on the company's plan to offer entirely new shares.

A switch to a sale of fresh shares instead of an offer by existing shareholders would help avoid capital outflows at a time when the Indian government is growing increasingly concerned about capital flight. Foreign investors have sold Indian shares worth about $21.6 billion so far this year, after net outflows of nearly $19 billion in the previous year, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

"If Reliance proceeds with a fully primary issuance, it could help limit the repatriation of funds and support India's capital account within the balance of payments," said Madan Sabnavis, chief economist, at Bank of Baroda. "Such a structure would ensure that the proceeds are retained domestically, potentially easing pressure from ongoing foreign investor outflows."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday appealed to citizens to cut fuel use and limit foreign travel as rising oil prices from the Iran war threaten to widen the nation's import bill and strain foreign-exchange reserves. India is looking to stem an outflow of funds as it seeks to manage the country's strained foreign-exchange reserves.

Jio Platforms' investors include Meta Platforms Inc. and Alphabet Inc.'s Google, as well as sovereign wealth funds such as Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund, Mubadala Investment Co. and Abu Dhabi Investment Authority. Private equity backers include Vista Equity Partners, KKR & Co., General Atlantic and Silver Lake Management.

Jio's IPO would be the first by a major unit of billionaire Ambani's flagship conglomerate in almost two decades. The offering is gathering steam after the government approved a change in listing requirements, now allowing large issuers to dilute as little as 2.5% of their equity. Sizable IPOs in India have typically included sales of existing shares, like those of Hyundai Motor India and shadow lender Tata Capital Ltd.

The company, which controls India's largest wireless operator, is working with Bank of America Corp., Citigroup Inc., Goldman Sachs Group Inc., JM Financial Ltd., Kotak Mahindra Capital Co. and Morgan Stanley on the offering, people familiar with the matter have said.

PORTFOLIO PUSH

## Interio by Godrej bets big on India's GCC surge

HRITHIK KIRAN BAGADE
BENGALURU, DHNS

Enthused by the spurt in Global Capability Centres (GCCs) in India, Interio by Godrej is looking to expand its services to 500 such facilities in the next 1-2 years, from the current 100-110 GCCs it serves. "GCCs present a significant growth opportunity, similar to what the IT and ITeS sectors offered earlier. We have created a specialised portfolio for GCCs, including a concept called the 'Social Office', which is very different from traditional office setups," said Swapneel Nagarkar, Business Head and Executive VP, Interio by Godrej.

Suggesting that post-pandemic employees prefer flexible and collaborative work environments, he said the furniture and interiors major now offers reconfigurable spaces instead of fixed cubicles, including tables that convert into meeting areas, discussion pods, lounge setups, and acoustically isolated spaces.

According to PIB data, as of May 2026, India hosts over 2,117 GCCs operating around 3,728 units and employing more than 2.3 million professionals. The ecosystem generates nearly $100 billion in revenue. "Apart from GCCs, we also cater to Indian corporates, the education sector, and healthcare. We are especially focusing on international schools, colleges, and healthcare infrastructure," Nagarkar told *DH*.

The company is also selectively working on airport projects. "Many new airports already feature our seating and office furniture. This segment will continue to grow," he said.

Interio by Godrej operates across both B2B and B2C segments. "Last year, we did Rs 4,000 crore of total business, growing at about 15%," Nagarkar said, adding that the business mix stands at 70:30 between B2B and B2C, respectively.

"Product-wise, both B2B and B2C have been strong — Rs 1,200 crore from B2B products and Rs 1,100 crore from B2C products. The 70:30 split comes because B2B now demands complete solutions — clients want complete interiors, not just products," he explained.

B2B products include office and institutional furniture such as workstations, chairs, desks, and storage, while B2C products cater to homes and kitchens.

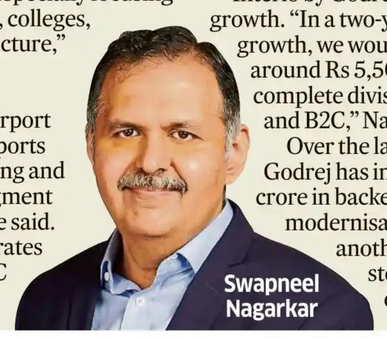
Focusing on B2C, the company follows an omnichannel strategy spanning company stores, franchise stores, and channel partners. It currently operates around 60-70 company stores, about 100 franchise stores, and around 600 channel partners across the country.

"In the coming years, we plan to significantly ramp up our retail presence, adding around 300 stores across all formats, especially in Tier-2/3 cities and Southern regions of India," he said.

According to available data, India's furniture market is estimated at over Rs 1.2 lakh-1.3 lakh crore, with the organised segment accounting for 10-15%.

Interio by Godrej is eyeing 15-20% growth. "In a two-year period, with 20% growth, we would be in the range of around Rs 5,500-6,000 crore as a complete division, including both B2B and B2C," Nagarkar said.

Over the last 4-5 years, Interio by Godrej has invested around Rs 500 crore in backend manufacturing and modernisation, and plans to invest another Rs 200-250 crore in stores and retail expansion over the next 1-2 years.


Swapneel Nagarkar

## UBL eyes 6-7% volume growth in FY27

**NEW DELHI, PTI:** United Breweries Limited (UBL) expects volume growth of 6-7% in FY27, leading to a double-digit revenue growth, driven by premiumisation, network expansion and stronger consumer demand, even as the company continues to face inflationary pressures and supply disruptions arising from geopolitical tensions.

The company, which closed FY26 with a modest 3% volume growth, remains optimistic that the structural initiatives undertaken over the last few years will help accelerate category growth in the coming fiscal.

"Our own forecast is somewhere between 6% and 7% volume growth, and it should translate to a double-digit revenue growth. We are already seeing momentum in the first quarter," said its Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Vivek Gupta in the latest investors call.

Gupta said demand from the market was up 8-9% in FY26, while the company posted 4% volume growth, and sales from the premium segment were up 16%.

## Canara Bank Q4 net down 10% to Rs 4,506 crore

**NEW DELHI, PTI:** State-owned Canara Bank on Monday reported a 10% year-on-year decline in standalone net profit to Rs 4,506 crore during the March quarter.

The Bengaluru-headquartered bank had posted a net profit of Rs 5,002.66 crore in the same quarter a year ago.

Also, the bank's total income dropped 1.85% for the January-March period of 2026, declining to Rs 36,662 crore from Rs 37,353 crore in the same period of the preceding fiscal year, Canara Bank said in a regulatory filing.




Net interest income, or core income, grew nearly 4% to Rs 9,808 crore in the quarter under review from Rs 9,442 crore.

On the asset quality front, the bank's gross non-performing assets (NPAs) or bad loans improved to 1.84% of the gross advances at the end of March 2026, as against 2.94% at the end of March 2025.

In value terms, the gross NPAs were worth Rs 22,740 crore, down from Rs 31,530 crore.

Similarly, net NPAs also improved to 0.43% (Rs 5,209 crore) during the quarter under review, down from 0.7% (Rs 7,353 crore).

The bank recommended a dividend of Rs 4.20 per equity share for 2025-26, subject to approval by shareholders at the ensuing Annual General Meeting.

# Why good teaching still goes unnoticed

**Indian universities reward credentials and publications more consistently than meaningful, effective, and student-focused teaching excellence, writes Anitha Ramachander**

Henry Adams's words, "A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops," encourage us to consider whether influence usually ends at the classroom door or sometimes never begins at all. A typical institution in India has a photograph of a faculty member holding a certificate. Behind them, a banner displays a Faculty Development Programme. Everyone in the photo is smiling. The photograph has been uploaded to the institution's website, and a checkbox is checked somewhere.

This scene is familiar across many universities and affiliated colleges. Too often, however, the programme ends with attendance records and photographs, while classroom practices remain largely unchanged.

We have developed a strong capacity for faculty development programmes, but have not maintained focus on their main purpose. Our system includes faculty development programmes, refresher courses, orientation sessions, and training logs required by NAAC, NEP, and other ranking bodies. Yet what we lack is a shared understanding of what good teaching actually looks like. The deeper problem is not the absence of training opportunities, but the absence of meaningful attention to teaching itself.

### Qualifications versus teaching ability

The essential qualifications include a postgraduate degree in the relevant field and a passing score in the UGC-NET or SET, which is mandatory for appointment as an Assistant Professor. Candidates with a PhD may be exempt from the NET requirement. A PhD is required to become an associate professor or professor. In professional courses such as management or engineering, additional qualifications and industry exposure can improve one's prospects.

While these credentials may open doors to a teaching career, classroom effectiveness depends on conceptual clarity, the ability to engage students, and a strong connection between theory and practice. Every institution has its own process for selecting faculty members. Some ask for a demo session, while others conduct interviews, and a few institutions regularly assess academic contributions. Yet these processes often fail to evaluate whether a person can truly teach well.

The issue of entering teaching is just as important as developing oneself within it, yet we rarely discuss it. Not everyone enters teaching out of a deep commitment to pedagogy; for some, qualifications become enough to enter the profession. Degrees and eligibility tests do not reveal whether someone can explain a difficult idea to a confused student, notice when a classroom has quietly stopped listening, or remain curious about their subject after twenty years of teaching.

Subject knowledge and teaching ability are not the same. Universities often assume that one automatically guarantees the other.

### What good teaching looks like

Many faculty members also work under difficult conditions: large class sizes, administrative overload, pressure to publish, and limited institutional support for pedagogical innovation. Yet universities in places such as Sydney, Manchester, and Iowa City demonstrate how seriously teaching can be treated as a professional skill.

The University of Sydney offers its faculty a Graduate Certificate in Educational Studies at no cost, peer review of teaching as a continuous process, and a professional learning framework grounded in the idea that good teaching develops over a career, not just in a weekend. The University of Manchester offers a Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education, mentoring programmes, and a Teaching Excellence team dedicated to improving classroom practice.

At Colorado State and the University of Iowa, teaching is evaluated through self-reflection, peer observation, and student feedback because institutions believe it deserves that level of attention. Some Indian institutions have also begun creating teaching-learning centres and structured faculty mentoring systems, though such efforts remain uneven across the sector.

In many Indian universities, appraisal forms still focus heavily on how many papers were published and how many workshops were attended. Far less attention is given to whether students understood concepts more clearly, became more engaged, or developed stronger analytical skills.

In most Indian universities, there are still faculty members who are truly exceptional. Someone who has been teaching the same subject for fifteen years and still keeps up with every major publication in the field. A young lecturer at a small private college in a tier-two city who redesigns her course repeatedly because she keeps finding better ways to explain concepts, without anyone asking her to.

A professor who still makes students think even years after graduation. Such people show what the wider system could produce if good teaching were consistently recognised and supported. Instead, many remain unrecognised and eventually lose the motivation to keep improving.

### What universities choose to reward

This is not entirely the teacher's fault. An underpaid profession, overwhelmed by administrative work and excessive workloads, and evaluated mostly on metrics that do not reflect classroom realities, will inevitably produce graduates who are less prepared for professional and civic life.

Research matters deeply to universities. The problem arises when publication metrics overshadow classroom engagement in faculty evaluation systems. There is a clear reward for submitting a paper to a Scopus-indexed journal before the appraisal deadline. There is far less reward for spending a summer rethinking how to teach more effectively. We built this system, and we should not be surprised by what it produces.

Teaching remains one of the professions with the greatest social responsibility. It demands preparation, focus, and the willingness to see whether the student in the third row truly understood the lesson. In many institutions, these practices are becoming harder to sustain. Accountability for teaching quality remains weak, and meaningful classroom evaluation is still rare.

We must acknowledge teachers who truly make a difference. We need more educators who shape lives and help build the country's future. Teaching is not just about lecturing from the podium; it involves paying attention to what students genuinely learn. Better hiring processes, structured mentoring, peer review of teaching, and promotion systems that meaningfully value classroom effectiveness would be a start.

At its core, this is more than an academic issue—it's a matter of purpose. An institution's character depends on what its leadership genuinely values. If the goal is to shape lives and serve society, good teaching will naturally be prioritised. However, if the focus remains solely on numbers and revenue, superficial success will continue to overshadow real learning.

*(The author is a pro-vice chancellor of a Dehradun-based private university)*

# Making our students competent

GUNASHEKHAR BHAT

In today's education system, we often find the lacunae that have led our children to become mere job seekers and money-earning machines. Securing marks is the priority over acquiring knowledge. Over the years, this approach has led to deteriorating learning outcomes for our children.

Just like every year, the Karnataka Education Department has successfully conducted the SSLC board examination this academic year. The results have been better this year, thanks to the government and the Education Department's overbearing approach toward schools across Karnataka. Lowering the passing marks, along with the efforts of Education Department officers, yielded better results. But, are our students competent enough for the next level of college education?

When we look at the languages and the core subjects separately, the students scored higher in Hindi, and only one-third of them could score full marks in Kannada. This is an important point to ponder over. With Kannada as the mother tongue in Karnataka, the language is in a miserable condition. A language has to be learned by the student, with a focus on acquiring the ability to communicate effectively in the future. The data show that more students are failing in Kannada than in the other two languages.

Regarding the core subjects, students find mathematics very difficult, while science and social studies are much easier. The government should appoint a committee to recommend a complete overhaul of the syllabus to meet modern-day requirements. The syllabus should have such lessons so that students will learn more skills rather than focus on marks alone. Students often forget what they learn in the classroom after exams. Marks, qualifications and experience cannot become knowledge. One has to study for knowledge rather than just to pass the exams.

In light of the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the Union government has already taken enough initiatives to modernise education, which is rooted in our own culture and old Indian Values. The respective state governments should keep politics out of education reform to benefit the future generations of students. After all, education should help nurture creativity and confidence in children.

The government should implement a policy to make Kannada the first language at the school level in Karnataka and to ensure effective implementation of Kannada applications, alongside English and a third language. If this is not done, the deterioration of languages at the school level will continue, and future generations of students will surely suffer from a lack of communication skills.

*(The author is the head master of Sathya Sai High School, Sullia)*

# Education loan support

Buddy4Study's Education Loan Programme offers collateral-free education loans of up to Rs 40 lakh for Indian students pursuing undergraduate, postgraduate, and diploma courses in India or abroad to help students finance tuition fees, hostel charges, study materials, travel and other academic expenses.

The programme connects students with multiple banks and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), allowing applicants to compare loan options, interest rates and repayment terms on a single platform. Interest rates reportedly begin at around 6.85%, depending on the applicant's academic profile, institution and co-applicant credentials.

The loans are available for professional and academic programmes, including engineering, management, medicine and overseas education. Many loan options are collateral-free for amounts up to Rs 7.5 lakh, while higher amounts may require security depending on the lender's policies.

Eligible applicants must be Indian nationals with confirmed admission to a recognised institution. Students are required to submit proof of identity, admission letters, academic records, bank statements,roof, admission letters, academic records, bank statements and family income documents. Loan approval timelines typically range from three to 15 business days after document verification.

Deadline is October 31, 2026. Check details here: https://t.ly/50VXr

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# Here's how to pass the test by the invisible hirer

If you are on LinkedIn, chances are that you already know about Applicant Tracking Systems (ATS). Many résumés are rejected by a recruiter. Often, it is rejected much earlier — by these softwares. But what most LinkedIn posts do not tell you is how to make the resumes ATS-friendly.

Today, many companies use ATS to filter applications before a human even sees them. Recruiters handling hundreds or thousands of applications use these systems to scan résumés for keywords, skills, job titles, and formatting. If the résumé does not match what the software is looking for, it may never reach the shortlist.

This is one reason why equally qualified candidates can end up with very different results.

One common mistake is using the same résumé for every application. ATS systems compare résumés against the language used in the job description. If a role mentions "project management," "Excel," "SEO," or "customer support," those exact terms should appear in the résumé wherever relevant. Many candidates have the skills, but describe them differently, reducing their visibility.

The issue is not dishonesty. It is about using the same language that recruiters and software use when searching.

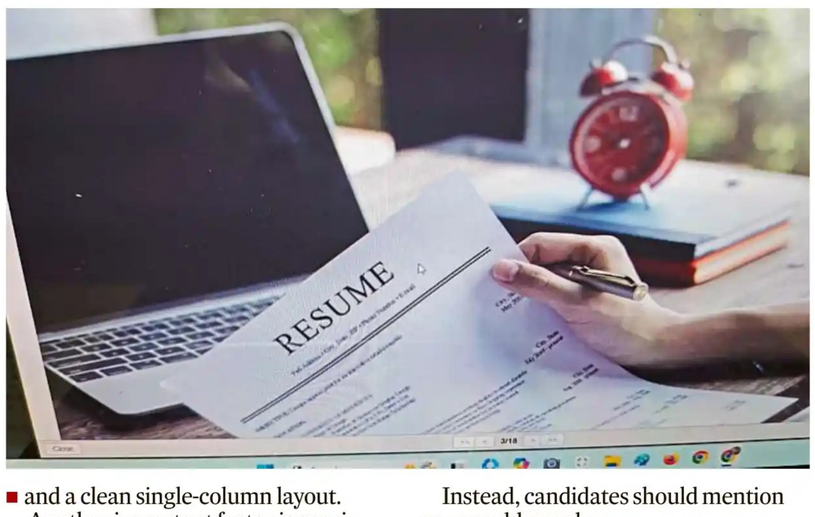
Formatting also matters more than people realise.

Fancy templates with graphics, tables, multiple columns, icons, or unusual fonts may look attractive, but can confuse ATS software. Simpler formats often work better.

### Building an ATS-friendly resume

A safe ATS-friendly résumé usually includes:

- clear headings such as Education, Skills, Experience, and Projects,
- standard fonts,
- bullet points,




- and a clean single-column layout.

Another important factor is specificity. Generic lines such as "worked on social media" or "handled customers" do little for recruiters or ATS systems.

Instead, candidates should mention measurable work:

- "Managed Instagram campaigns that increased engagement by 30%"
- "Handled 40 customer calls daily"
- "Created SEO content for technology blogs"

Specific achievements improve both search visibility and credibility.

Keywords are especially important in technical and corporate jobs. Recruiters often search databases using terms like Python, SQL, digital marketing, MIS reporting, copywriting, or financial analysis. If those words are absent, the résumé may never appear in search results, even if the candidate knows the work.

Candidates should also pay attention to technical details:

- avoid image-based résumés,
- use PDF or DOCX formats,
- check spelling carefully,
- and ensure phone numbers and email IDs are clearly visible.

LinkedIn now plays a role, too. Recruiters often cross-check LinkedIn profiles after ATS shortlisting. A mismatch between the résumé and LinkedIn profile can create confusion. In many sectors, LinkedIn visibility itself has become part of employability.

If you do not know how to highlight your skills, an easy way to tweak a CV is to assign the role of an ATS expert to an AI tool and ask it to modify the resume. Observe the changes it makes and learn from it.

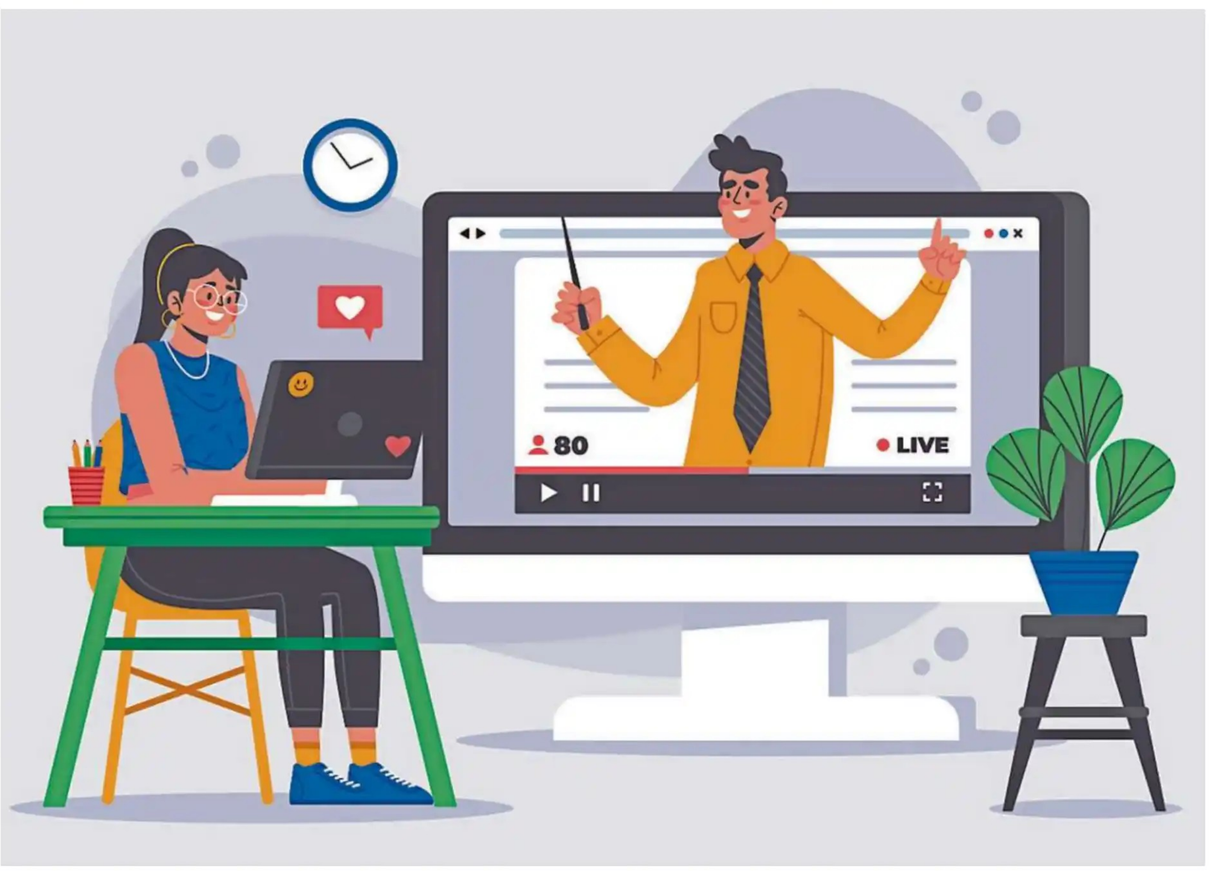
The bigger issue is that many graduates are never taught how hiring systems actually work. They assume rejection means lack of ability, when sometimes the real problem is discoverability. Candidates from stronger professional networks often learn ATS optimisation early, while others remain unaware of why applications go unanswered.

A resume today is no longer just a document. It is also a searchable profile designed for algorithms. Good skills still matter. But in a crowded hiring market, candidates also need to make those skills visible in ways both recruiters and software can understand.

**- Netra**

# An idea that redefines learning

**Digital universities, if implemented and managed in the right manner, can make higher education more accessible to many, writes Darshan B M**




The concept of a digital university marks a significant turning point in India's higher education system. Announced in the Union Budget 2022 to 2023 by the Ministry of Education, this aims to make quality education accessible to students nationwide through digital platforms. The idea is to provide a personalised and flexible learning experience that reaches learners at their doorstep.

The government has already begun preparatory steps for the digital university by working closely with major regulatory bodies, including the University Grants Commission (UGC) and the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), to advance the initiative toward implementation at the earliest.

A digital university is an institution that functions entirely in a virtual environment. Teaching, learning and assessment are conducted using digital tools and online platforms. Unlike isolated online courses or distance learning programs, this initiative aims to create a comprehensive and centralised system that integrates multiple modes of digital education. It reflects the broader vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which emphasises accessibility, inclusivity and flexibility in higher education. By offering courses in multiple Indian languages and formats, the digital university aims to cater to a diverse student population across regions and backgrounds.

### The hub-and-spoke model

A most innovative aspect of the digital university is its hub-and-spoke model. In this framework, a central hub will oversee academic quality, administrative functions and technological infrastructure, while various universities and institutions will serve as spokes offering courses.

This collaborative approach enables participation by leading public institutions and even global partners, thereby enhancing the quality and diversity of programmes available to students. It also reduces resource duplication and promotes knowledge sharing across institutions.

To make this vision inclusive, the government has focused on strengthening digital infrastructure, particularly in rural areas. The BharatNet project aims to provide broadband connectivity through optical fibre networks to Gram Panchayats across the country. This is expected to ensure last-mile connectivity and enable students in remote areas to access online education.

In regions with limited internet access, educational content is delivered via SWAYAM Prabha television channels. These parallel efforts indicate that the success of the digital university depends not only on academic planning but also on technological readiness.

### Flexible learning across universities

Students in the proposed digital university system will be able to take courses from different universities because the model is designed as a collaborative network rather than a single institution. A central digital platform will coordinate academic processes, while multiple partner universities will offer courses.

This allows students to select subjects based on their interests, rather than being limited to one college or university. Each course will carry credits, which can be accumulated over time, creating a flexible and personalised learning pathway.

For example, a student interested in media and technology could study journalism at one university, data analytics at another, and digital marketing at a third institution. All these courses would be completed online, and the credits earned would be stored and combined through a centralised system.

Once the required number of credits is achieved, the student can receive a degree, either from the digital university framework or from a participating institution, depending on the structure.

This approach encourages interdisciplinary learning and provides students with access to the best courses across institutions. The digital university in India is still under development, with policy frameworks in place and preparatory steps underway, but it is not yet fully operational at the national level.

While pilot initiatives and groundwork are progressing, a complete rollout will take time, and this transitional phase offers an opportunity to refine the model and address challenges before large-scale implementation.

### Opportunities and the road ahead

The digital university holds immense promise for transforming higher education in India. One of its primary advantages is the potential to increase enrollment rates. Removing geographical constraints and reducing costs associated with traditional education can make higher education more inclusive and equitable.

Students who are unable to secure admission in conventional institutions due to limited seats or financial barriers can benefit from this model. The absence of strict entry barriers and the possibility of unlimited seats in certain courses further enhance access.

Another important benefit is the flexibility it offers. Students can learn at their own pace, choose from a wide range of courses, and even combine disciplines based on their interests. For working professionals, the digital university provides an opportunity to upgrade skills without interrupting their careers.

This is particularly relevant in today's rapidly changing job market, where continuous learning has become essential. By aligning courses with industry needs, the initiative can also contribute to economic growth and innovation.

### Challenges

The challenges associated with this initiative are many. The digital divide remains a significant concern, as many students still lack access to reliable internet and digital devices. There is also a need to train both teachers and students in effective online learning practices. There is also a lack of clarity on the fee structure, how universities will collaborate, and whether there will be private universities involved.

Ensuring student engagement in a virtual environment is another challenge, as attention spans and interaction levels may differ from traditional classrooms. Concerns about the credibility and acceptance of online degrees need to be addressed through strong regulatory frameworks and quality assurance mechanisms.

The digital university represents a forward-looking reform that has the potential to redefine higher education in India. Its success will depend on how effectively the government and stakeholders address infrastructural, pedagogical and social challenges. If implemented carefully, it can bridge educational gaps, promote lifelong learning and create a more inclusive and dynamic knowledge society.

*(The author is an assistant professor at a private university in Bengaluru)*

## BULLETIN BOARD

**Legal interns**
Creatorshala is hiring a law/legal field intern who can work from home. Students with proficiency in spoken and written English, MS Office, and MS Word can apply by June 7. The stipend is Rs 10,000-20,000 /month. Apply at: internshala.com/i/5c64a0.

**Billing operation interns**
FreJun India Private Limited is hiring a billing operations intern who can work from home. Students with knowledge of accounting, finance, Google Sheets, MS Excel, operations, attention to detail, and effective communication skills can apply by June 7. The stipend is Rs 10,000-15,000/month. Apply at: internshala.com/i/8dabce.

**Data research executives**
Tradepass is hiring a data research executive intern in Bengaluru. Students with knowledge of HubSpot and MS Excel, and effective communication skills, can apply by June 7. The stipend is Rs 10,000-12,000/month. Apply at: internshala.com/i/1260a8.

**Creative design interns**
Testline is hiring a creative design intern in Bengaluru (hybrid). Students with experience in graphic design, influencer marketing, marketing campaigns, and social media marketing can apply by June 5. The stipend is Rs 15,000-30,000 /month. Apply at: internshala.com/i/5cf6f9.

**Scholarship programme**
Buddy4Study is inviting applications for the Dr Rajendra Prasad Scholarship Program 2026–27 for students who have passed Class 10 or 12 with at least 75% marks.
Applicants' annual family income should not exceed Rs 8 lakh.
Selected students will receive a one-time scholarship of up to Rs 30,000.
Last date: June 28, 2026.
Details and application: https://t.ly/YShcI

## EARN WHILE YOU LEARN

# Negotiating salaries and understanding contracts

**BHIMA RAO**

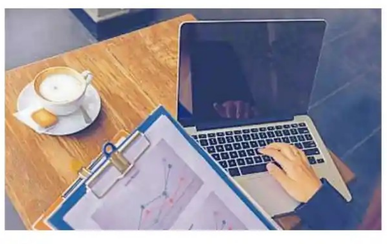
Part-time jobs and internships are often filled quickly, so students should apply within 24–48 hours of a vacancy being posted. A customised resume, clear availability, and a concise explanation of how one fits the role improve the chances of selection. Students should use multiple channels — online portals, personal contacts, and referrals — and follow up politely if there is no response within a few days.

Interviews also play a crucial role. Students should dress appropriately, communicate clearly, and honestly explain their strengths, interests, and availability. Employers value confidence and transparency more than exaggerated claims.

### Salary negotiation: Why it matters

Many freshers hesitate to negotiate salaries for part-time jobs or internships, assuming employers will offer a fixed amount. In reality, negotiation is a normal part of the hiring process, and many companies expect candidates to discuss compensation. Unless students ask, better offers may never come.

Before negotiating, students should research prevailing wages through job portals such as Naukri.com and Indeed. Pay depends on the type of



work, required skill, and the employer's capacity. Skilled roles such as graphic design, digital marketing, video editing, content writing, or voice work often offer higher pay or assignment-based compensation.

Approximate earnings in common student jobs include:

- Tutoring: 15,000–25,000 per month
- Social media or content writing: 8,000–22,000 per month
- Data entry: 10,000–15,000 per month
- Gig work, such as delivery services: around Rs 225 per hour

In organised sectors such as retail outlets, Business Process Outsourcing (BPOs), hospitals, and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), wages are usually at or above government minimum wage standards. Full-time workers in these sectors may also receive Employee State Insurance (ESI), Employees' Provident Fund (EPF), bonus, gratuity, weekly holidays, and experience certificates.

However, India still lacks a dedicated legal framework for student part-time workers. In many unorganised sectors, salaries are decided through negotiation and market demand rather than fixed hourly wage systems commonly seen abroad.

### Importance of written contracts

Students should clearly negotiate working hours before accepting a role so that classes and academic schedules are not affected. Many employers and employees mutually agree on the terms for wages, work hours, and responsibilities in flexible part-time arrangements.

Where organisations employ students in full-time roles, especially in sectors covered under labour laws, employers generally issue formal appointment letters specifying salary, working hours, leave policies, and social security benefits. Such written agreements provide clarity and legal protection.

Students must avoid employers who demand security deposits, training fees, laptop charges, or other upfront payments. Accepting work without a written offer can create major risks, especially if wages are delayed or unpaid. Recovering money later becomes difficult without documentation.

Freelancers and self-employed students should also document payment terms, deadlines, and the scope of work before starting assignments.

### Challenges students face

Balancing work and studies requires discipline and careful time management. Long commutes, especially in cities like Bengaluru, reduce time available for studies and rest. Low entry-level wages, exam pressure, irregular shifts, and lack of sleep can affect both physical and mental health.

Many students also face social stigma around blue-collar or service-sector jobs, while parents may worry that employment will distract from academics.

In addition, part-time workers in unorganised sectors often lack job security, paid leave, or insurance benefits, though recent legislation for gig workers in Karnataka is beginning to address some of these concerns.

Despite these challenges, part-time work can provide valuable professional exposure, financial support, workplace discipline, and practical experience that strengthen long-term career prospects.

*(The author is a human resource advisor) (Next part: How to maximise part-time job experience)*

*Questions? Write to us: dheducation@deccanherald.co.in*

# Guessing helps memory while learning a language

Learning a second language is becoming increasingly popular, with millions using digital tools and mobile apps to learn at their own pace. Many successful language-learning apps rely on a simple method: learners guess a word from a picture before being shown the correct answer. Cognitive psychology has long suggested that trying to answer first strengthens memory more than passive study.

A new study by the National University of Singapore (NUS), published in Cognitive Research: Principles and Implications, now provides experimental evidence supporting this approach. The research found that word-picture guessing exercises with immediate feedback significantly improve adults' ability to remember new vocabulary in a second language.

"Millions of people learn new languages through apps that rely heavily on word-picture guessing tasks, but evidence for how much those activities help learners remember vocabulary has been limited," said Steven Pan. "Our study shows that attempting an answer first, even before fully learning the word, and then seeing the correct response boosts memory and supports lasting learning."

The method, known as "pretesting," involves learners attempting an answer before studying the material and then receiving immediate feedback. Even incorrect guesses help the brain encode the correct answer more effectively than passive reading alone.

To test this, Pan and Master's student Tabitha Chua conducted four experiments involving 341 adults with no knowledge of Spanish. Participants learned Spanish nouns through either guessing-with-feedback or study-only methods.

Exercises used two formats common in language apps: word-to-image matching and image-to-word matching. Memory was later tested through recall and multiple-choice exercises.

Results showed that participants who guessed first consistently remembered vocabulary better, regardless of the exercise format.

"Second-language learners often hesitate to guess until they feel confident, but early attempts, even without full knowledge, can help learners engage more actively with words," Pan said. He added that exercises encouraging learners to try first and learn from feedback can strengthen vocabulary retention over time.

**- Curated/ Phys.org**

## Rohith ton seals it for Swastic Union (1)

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** R Rohith Reddy slammed a ton as Swastic Union handed a big defeat to Caravan Cricketers in the KSCA U-16 Inter-Club tournament here.

Rohith's 103-ball 123 took Swastic Union to 297 all out in 50 overs while Vivaan Bhusad took a 4/37 to limit further damage for his side.

The effort, however, turned futile as Swastic bowlers, led by Bhavish K's 5/13, bowled out Caravan for a mere 108 in 31.1 overs.

LOCAL CRICKET

**Brief scores:** Swastic Union (1): 297 all out in 50 overs (R Rohith Reddy 123, Niyanta Santosh Kulkarni 46; Vivaan Bhusad 4-37, Raunak Biswas 2-57, Gabriel Mohanty 2-24) bt Caravan Cricketers: 108 all out in 31.1 overs (Rajveer Chowdhary 35; Bhavish K 5-13, Neev Bhattacharjee 2-13, Saachin Suresh Araganji 2-16).
Yankees: 275/8 in 50 overs (Nachiket Yatin Athale 95, Aradhya N Sheety 51, Advik Srinivas 37, Miraan Mahajan 29; Surya Sendhil 2-47) lt to National Cricketers: 276/8 in 49.3 overs (Gaurav Raj H 105, Maanvik S 54, HS Amogh Athreyasa 52; Nadavala Srinivas Charvik 3-65, Advik Srinivas 2-46).
Jayanagar Cricketers: 153 all out in 28.2 overs (Mohammed Hasnain Ali 56, Sujoy Das 28; Ruhaan Shaikh 4-19, Dhruvdinesh TV 3-24) lt to Chintamani: 154/8 in 22.2 overs (Aashwij 38, Ruhaan Shaikh 25; Mohammed Suleman Safi 2-41).
City Gymkhana: 261/7 in 50 overs (Arnav N Manchale 88, Vedant Shaurya 72 n.o., Siddharth HS 29, Pushkar S 26; Ayush Barath 2-43, Vihan HB 2-47) bt YMCA (3): 164 all out in 34.3 overs (Karthick Veeran 52, D Mohith 37; Tejas Sudhindra Bhat 3-39, Tarun M 2-27, Arnav N Manchale 2-14).
Jayanagar United Cricketers: 312/7 in 50 overs (Ayan Mukherjee 58, Yadalla Kushaal Krishna 55, Samarth Gautam Rayabagi 43, Sudarshan Thapa 42, Shoubhit Shreyan Pani 31; Sai Teja Atti 2-45) bt Jupiter Cricketers: 71 all out in 27.1 overs (Soumith Kongara 5-13, Adhyay 3-19).
Vivekanagar Cricketers: 212 all out in 44.3 overs (Bhavith Reddy AC 63, Sachit S Galatagi 38; CVD Karthik 5-30, Chiranthgowda 3-40, Anirudh Katige 2-35) bt Malleswaram Gymkhana: 190 all out in 42.5 overs (Aryamohan K 56, Koman Prasad 40, Anirudh Katige 30 n.o.; Jagan T P 6-32, Akarsh M Appinakatte 2-35).

FOOTBALL LA LIGA

# Barca complete coronation

### Dominant Catalans down rivals Real Madrid 2-0 to wear 29th league crown

BARCELONA, AFP

Barcelona players and support staff celebrate with the La Liga trophy after defeating Real Madrid on Sunday. REUTERS

Barcelona secured their 29th Spanish league title after beating Real Madrid 2-0 in the Clasico on Sunday.

Marcus Rashford and Ferran Torres struck in the first half to help Hansi Flick's side clinch La Liga in consecutive years, while consigning Madrid to a trophyless season.

Barca moved an unassailable 14 points clear of second-place Los Blancos with three matches remaining.

This was only the second time the outcome of La Liga has been decided directly by the result of a Clasico, with record 36-time champions Real Madrid winning their first title in 1932 after a draw with Barca.

Flick's team were disappointed to be knocked out in the Champions League quarterfinals by Atletico Madrid in April, but were still determined to celebrate in style.

"This title is more special for winning it at home against Madrid, now we have to enjoy it with the fans," Barca midfielder Frenkie de Jong told Movistar.

"We have been the best team in Spain -- of course, we (also) want to win the Champions League, that's the objective. Next year we will have another opportunity."

Madrid arrived at the match embroiled in chaos, after midfielder Fede Valverde was ruled out with a head injury following a training ground scuffle with team-mate Aurelien Tchouameni, who started.

Barca coach Flick received bad news before the game, with his father passing away, but took his place on the touchline regardless, to oversee his side's comfortable triumph.

The German coach opted for the energetic Rashford, on loan from Manchester United, on the right wing in place of injured teenage star Lamine Yamal.

The Catalans, who only needed to avoid defeat, came out with their eyes firmly locked on the prize, racing into a two-goal lead inside 18 minutes.

Rashford opened the scoring with a superb free-kick, whipping the ball into the top left corner from a position 20 yards out, right of centre.

Torres doubled the hosts' advantage at a jubilant Camp Nou, the 62,000-strong crowd enjoying the first Clasico back there since the stadium was reopened.

Dani Olmo produced a clever backheel to allow Torres to burst into the box and ram past Thibaut Courtois.

Gonzalo Garcia, playing in place of injured Madrid superstar Kylian Mbappe, prodded narrowly wide after racing in behind Barca's high defensive line.

Urged on by coach Alvaro Arbeloa on the touchline, unlikely to be at the helm next season, Madrid battled to stem the bleeding.

Rashford could have added a third before the break but fired wide, with Fermin Lopez unmarked and well placed to finish.

Torres should have struck early in the second half but Courtois saved from the Spain international as he ran through.

Jude Bellingham put the ball in Barcelona's net but the goal was ruled out for offside, while Joan Garcia thwarted Vinicius Junior. Barca fans batted inflatable beach balls around to taunt the Brazilian over his unfulfilled Ballon d'Or ambitions, and lapped up the party atmosphere.

Flick's side remain on course to match the record of 100 points in a league season and can win all their home matches if they defeat Real Betis in the one remaining.

**Results:** Real Mallorca: 1 (Muriqi 45+2) drew with Villarreal: 1 (Perez 31st); Athletic Bilbao: 0 bt Valencia: 1 (Sadiq 72nd); Real Oviedo: 0 drew with Getafe: 0; Barcelona: 2 (Rashford 9th, Torres 18th) bt Real Madrid: 0.

## Hunt for individual glory resumes

### Lakshya, Sindhu lead India's charge in Thailand Open

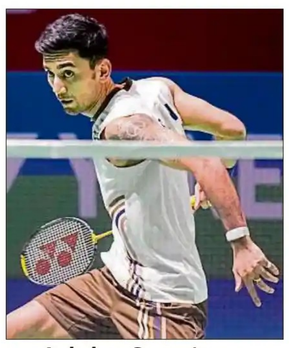
BANGKOK, PTI

Lakshya Sen and PV Sindhu will spearhead India's challenge as the shuttlers shift focus back to individual glory after the country's bronze-medal finish at the Thomas Cup Finals when the USD 500,000 Thailand Open Super 500 tournament begins here on Tuesday.

Seventh seed Lakshya, who suffered an elbow injury and missed the crucial semifinal against France in Denmark, will open against Singapore's Jason Teh Jia Heng, while Ayush Shetty, who impressed during the Thomas Cup campaign, faces a difficult opener against sixth seed Japan's Kodai Naraoka, a world championships medallist.

In women's singles, sixth seed Sindhu will begin against Chinese Taipei's Tung Ciou-Tong. The 30-year-old iconic shuttler from Hyderabad looked sharp during the Uber Cup campaign while sporting an experimental wearable device on her temple, but she will need to close out tight matches better to rediscover her ruthless edge.

With a semifinal finish in Malaysia and a quarterfinal appearance in Indonesia this season, Sindhu has managed to stay just outside the top 10 rankings, but the two-time Olympic medallist will need a consistent run to end her title drought.



Lakshya Sen returns from a shoulder niggle to face Singapore's Jason Teh Jia Heng in the opening round of Thailand Open on Tuesday. PTI FILE PHOTO

Former world championships silver medallist Kidambi Srikanth, who reached the finals of the Malaysia Masters and Syed Modi International last season, has shown flashes of brilliance but has often struggled with inconsistency and unforced errors.

Now 33, Srikanth faces an uphill task to return to the podium regularly and will hope to make a strong start against eighth seed Loh Kean Yew in a rematch of the 2021 World Championships final.

Tharun Mannepalli, whose progress has frequently been interrupted by injuries and niggles, will take on Japan's Koki Watanabe.

Among other Indian women in fray, Unnati Hooda faces fourth seed Pornpawee Chochuwong in a tough opener, while Devika Sihag meets Japan's Natsuki Nidaira and Tanvi Sharma takes on Hina Akechi.

Malvika Bansod will open against Canada's Wen Yu Zhang.

## Anderson: Aus tennis' 'true legend'

**SYDNEY, AFP:** Mal Anderson **(in pic)** , the first unseeded player to win the US Open men's singles title, has died aged 91, Tennis Australia said on Monday.

Anderson's career started on a dirt court on a farm and he went on to become an Australian tennis great, winning the US crown in 1957 and three major doubles titles.

Although unseeded at what was then the United States Championships, Anderson beat three seeds and dropped only two sets on his way to the title.

He also won the Davis Cup twice.

After retirement Anderson mentored young Australian players including Pat Rafter, who went on to become world number one.

"I was really sad to hear of Mal's passing," said Rafter, who twice won the US Open.

# Balsekar enters main draw as other Indians bite the dust

HITA PRAKASH
BENGALURU, DHNS

Ognjen Milic of Serbia defeated India's Dev Javia in the first round of the Karnataka Open ATP Challenger at the SM Krishna Tennis Stadium on Monday. DH PHOTO/ BK JANARDHAN

The main draw action of the Karnataka Open began on a quiet and steady note with those expected to win advancing here on Monday. But the opening day ended with the eighth seed suffering an early defeat at the SM Krishna Tennis Stadium.

Though there was a lot of home interest, with six Indians taking to court, Aditya Vishal Balsekar was the lone competitor who brought some cheer by beating higher-ranked Grigoriy Lomakin of Kazakhstan in the final qualifying round.

The 23-year-old Indian, seeded ninth in the qualifiers, scored a 6-3, 7-5 win over fifth-seeded Lomakin to enter the main draw.

Meanwhile, Bengaluru boy Adil Kalyanpur grabbed the initial lead but lost steam as the match progressed to go down 7-5, 3-6, 3-6 to USA's Christopher Papa while the other Indian, Parth Aggarwal, was swatted aside 2-6, 1-6 by USA's Ronit Karki in the qualifiers.

Though there were sparks here and there, the script for the three local hopes in the main draw contests too ended on a dull note.

Facing seventh seed Maximus Jones of Thailand in the opening round, unseeded Sidharth Rawat did well to stay toe-to-toe with his opponent. However, Jones stepping up his game every time he was pushed to the brink proved pivotal that gave the American a 6-4, 7-6 (3) win.

Wild card entrant Maan Kesharwani put up a fight to stretch Czech Republic's Dominik Palan to the corners in the opening set. However, Palan held on to survive a tough tie-breaker and win the opening set 7-6 (10) before grabbing the second 6-4 to put an end to Kesharwani's effort.

The last of the Indians to compete on the day was another wild card entrant Dev Javia against fifth seed Ognjen Milic of Serbia. And once again, a slow start in the first set before a surge in the second was only enough to take the 24-year-old as far as a 1-6, (5) 6-7 defeat.

Later, Japan's Yuta Kawahashi scored an upset 6-3, 3-6, 6-4 win over eight seed Alex Hernandez of Mexico - who became the big casualty of the day.

**Results: Men singles (prefix denotes seeding): Round of 32:** Dominik Palan (Cze) bt WC-Maan Kesharwani (Ind) 7-6 (10), 6-4; 7-Maximus Jones (Tha) bt Sidharth Rawat (Ind) 6-4, 7-6 (3); 5-Ognjen Milic (Srb) bt WC-Dev Javia (Ind) 6-1, 7-6 (5); Yuta Kawahashi (Jpn) bt 8-Alex Hernandez (Mex) 6-3, 3-6, 6-4.

**Final qualifying round:** Alt-Christopher Papa (USA) bt Adil Kalyanpur (Ind) 5-7, 6-3, 6-3; 6-Ronit Karki (USA) bt Alt-Parth Aggarwal (Ind) 6-2, 6-1; 1-Alastair Gray (GBR) bt Volodymyr Iakubenko 7-6 (3), 7-6 (4); 7-Ryotaro Taguchi (Jpn) bt 4-Naoya Honda (Jpn) 3-6, 7-5, 6-3; 2-Taiyo Yamanaka (Jpn) bt Tomohiro Masabayashi (Jpn) 6-2, 6-1; 9-Aditya Vishal Balsekar (Ind) bt 5-Grigoriy Lomakin (Kaz) 6-3, 7-5.

## Sinner strolls into last 16

**ROME, AFP:** Jannik Sinner **(in pic)** breezed into the last 16 of the Italian Open on Monday after swatting aside Alexei Popyrin in straight sets 6-2, 6-0 to continue his bid for a first title in Rome.

Coco Gauff survived a scare against Iva Jovic coming back from a match point to win 5-7, 7-5, 6-2 and reach the women's quarter-finals.

ATP world number one easily won his 25th straight match, taking just over an hour to see off Australia's Popyrin and set up an Italian derby with Andrea Pellegrino in the next round.

Pellegrino, 29, who beat 20th seed Frances Tiafoe 7-6 (10/8), 6-1, is a qualifier ranked 155 in the world who before this week had never played in the main draw of a Masters 1000 tournament.

Sinner, meanwhile, is trying to extend his own record-breaking run of overall victories in the ATP's top-ranked events after having won his last five.

The 24-year-old joins Novak Djokovic as the only player to win a year's first 25 Master 1000 matches, with the Serbian tennis icon's record run stretching to 31 matches in 2011.

Popyrin was suffocated by Sinner and made 23 unforced errors on his way to a comprehensive defeat.

### Holger withdraws

Former top-five player Holger Rune is withdrawing from the French Open and putting off his return from Achilles tendon surgery until the grass season next month, reports AP from Paris.

"Tough decision not to play the clay season, but the right one," Rune said on X. "Can't wait to see you all on the grass."

### Wild card for Wawrinka

Three-time Grand Slam champion Stan Wawrinka and fellow retiring player Gael Monfils were given wild cards for the French Open on Monday.

The 41-year-old Wawrinka won Roland Garros in 2015 and is now ranked No. 125. The 39-year-old Monfils reached the semifinals in Paris in 2008 and is now No. 222.

Wawrinka and Monfils plan to retire at the end of the year and both will be honoured after their final matches in Paris.

## Blue Tigresses' fine run comes to an end

**SUZHOU (CHINA), PTI:** India's creditable run in the AFC Women's U-17 Asian Cup came to an end after a 0-3 defeat against hosts China in the quarterfinals here on Monday.

The defeat dashed the Young Tigresses' hopes of securing a historic qualification for the 2026 FIFA U17 Women's World Cup, though the campaign still marked the country's best-ever performance in the competition with a first appearance in the knockout stage.

Head coach Pamela Conti made one change from the side that defeated Lebanon in the final group-stage match, with Joya replacing Anushka Kumari in the starting line-up.

Backed by a vocal home crowd, China started aggressively and immediately looked to impose themselves through quick passing combinations and movement in the final third.

# Rahul's 6-for dismantles Hutton CC

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Malleswaram United posted a four-wicket victory over Huttons Cricket Club in a tricky low-scoring run-chase as Rahul B's 6/52 bowling figures proved decisive in the KSCA YS Ramaswamy Memorial Trophy for 4th and 5th division clubs here.

**Brief scores:** Huttons: 106 all out in 19.3 overs (Aditya G 33; Rahul B 6-52, Punith HA 2-23) lt to Malleswaram United: 111/6 in 16 overs (Dhyan Suvarna 35; Abdur Rahman Anas 4-51)
Vasanthanagar Cricketers: 189 all out in 37.3 overs (Raghu Suraj 73, Mihran Abdul Rehman 40, Darshan Raja 28; Nihal S Patil 5-25) lt to Sangam: 190/4 in 29.3 overs (Ratan Thosh AS 56 n.o., Gowrav S 50, Deepak Shridhar 32, Aditya KS 31; Basavaraj BS 3-41).
Canarese: 124 all out in 26.1 overs (Pranjal Jain 46; Arav Prasad 3-11, Anush Mehta Jain 3-46, Manvir Agasthya 2-44) lt to Eleven Brothers, Magadi: 125/3 in 21.3 overs (Krishiv Kalra 78).
Maharana: 186 all out in 39.2 overs (Sai Akhilesh B 71, Karan Umesh 41; Venkat Purushotham 3-40, Sarveet Dubey 3-19, R Chandrasekaran 2-23) lt to Lions CC: 187/7 in 33.2 overs (Abhinav Kulkarni 75 n.o., Sujeet Kumar R 27, Manoj AV 27 n.o.; Sriee Krish R 3-38).
Sparklers: 295/9 in 50 overs (Koushik AN 76, Tejas Naik 62, Deepak Gowda 42; Gnanesh Subramani 3-38, Sachin KS 2-56) bt Jaihind: 172 all out in 36.3 overs (Gnanesh Subramani 50; Mohammed Shamsheer 4-28, Eyann Grover 3-52).
Sirurpark SC: 192 all out in 38.3 overs (Srikanth B 40, Udayakumar Shindhe 33, Riyaz Ahmed Kotabala 30, Madhava 25; Pradeep Tamrakar 5-18, Niranjan Gupta 2-40, Binod Kumar BK 2-31) lt to City Cricketers (2): 123/4 in 23 overs (Emon Bhanj 64) via VJD method.
Diamond CC: 146 all out in 37.1 overs (Rajath Bhat HR 72 n.o.; Ghyan Kumar 3-19, Vishal Reddy SV 3-18, Puneeth 2-26) lt to Southern Cricketers: 147/2 in 18 overs (Arvind Chavan 54, Sooraj SA 44, Neeraj Kunal Muruganati 31 n.o.).
Rajajinagar Colts: 171 all out in 36.2 overs (Abhi Karthik S 36, Pranav YP 33, Ajay KM 27; Inayath Pasha 4-59, Tanmay Gowda Vikas 2-16) lt to Bangalore Star: 172/9 in 36.1 overs (Chethan KL 37, Raga Shiv Shankar 32).
Merchant CC (1): 185 all out in 39.5 overs (Pavan Golgeri 75, Prathap 29; Gokul Sai Shashank Sunkara 2-47, Lohith Gowda 2-28, Jaivardhan Sipani 2-42, Harshith Kumar N 2-13) lt to Young Boys Cricket Association: 186/3 in 32.4 overs (Shivaprasad S 59 n.o., Ekansh Roul 57; Nidhish N 3-42).
Ranji CC: 111 all out in 36.4 overs (Abhijith Karanth KN 27; Madan Mohan Krishna 4-14, Bharath YM 3-32) lt to Friends CT: 112/3 in 14.5 overs (Vaishnav D Sanghamiitra 67).
Modern Cricketers: 222/8 in 50 overs (Pramoda HS 60, Krishna Bharadwaj TN 49, Divyesh V 25 n.o.; Jameel Ahmed F J 3-38) lt to Vivekanagar Cricketers: 224/8 in 40 overs (Ajay Rammohan 49, Samkrupakaran N 39, Anand Kumar R 38 n.o., Sharath SU 33 n.o.; Pramoda HS 4-49).
Friends XI, Doddaballapura: 256/9 in 50 overs (Hannan Zaki Ahmad 72, Arjun Ramesh 33, Rudraditya Bhuyan 29, Zuhayr N Khan 28, Sujaybhushan Patil 28, Akshay Rangan A 26; Aaryan Nagesh 3-50) lt to Star Sports, Nelamangala: 260/7 in 36 overs (Nikhil Gowda 64 n.o., Shashank P 61, Yashash S Rao 56, Gnanendra 53)
Young Cricketers (1): 300/9 in 50 overs (Kishore V 76, Lingaraj 54, Kashish CH 50, Vasanth Kumar S 44, E Sudharshan 32; Prem Kumar T 3-56, Vikram R 2-46, Siddesh HR 2-45, Roshan Kumar 2-47) bt Duleep Cricketers: 85 all out in 23.2 overs (Roshan Kumar 21; Akash Sharma U 3-9, Santhosh Kumar SM 2-12, B Sudharshan 2-14).
Merchants CC (2): 160 all out in 42.5 overs (Milan Dhami 66, Adarsh B 36; Manjunath 3-20) lt to National United: 161/7 in 32.3 overs (Dheeraj N 36 n.o., Manjunath 32, Mithun S Patil 30; Yashas R 3-25, Milan Dhami 3-41).
Victory CC: 293/6 in 50 overs (Prithvi Raj M R 108, Rahul S 59, Mahesh Patel BM 43 n.o., Raghav Sanjay Vadher 42 n.o.; Sukruth B Kukke 3-42, Rohith R Rao 2-47) bt Gary Cricketers: 131 all out in 32.3 overs (Nischal Mohan 30; Kushal KA 5-37).
Elite Blues: 133 all out in 40 overs (Lohith R 3-21, Clifford Noel Arun 3-29) lt to Vikram: 134/9 in 38.1 overs (KA Aayush 53 n.o., Clifford Noel Arun 34; Chandan Chavan V 4-26, N Lochan Charan Reddy 2-45, Parth Biradar 2-22).
City Cricketers (1): 153/9 in 31.2 overs (Priyaranjan N 74; Chethan Kumar MP 4-21) lt to Bangalore Indian: 154/3 in 26 overs (Srikanth MV 38, Shivendra Anand Dalwale 33 n.o., Ashwin Tantry 32).

# Dharshan, Dhinidhi erase records

BENGALURU, DHNS

Hosts Basavanagudi Aquatic Centre's Dharshan S and Dolphin Aquatics' Dhinidhi Desinghu broke a record each on the opening day of the KSA State Senior Swimming Championships here on Monday.

Dharshan clocked 3:59.07 to erase Aneesh S Gowda's record in the men's 400m freestyle while Dhinidhi beat her own mark in the women's 200m freestyle after touching the pad in 2:04.20.

BAC's Prithvi M emerged as the fastest man of the championship after taking the gold in the 50m freestyle with a timing of 23.97 seconds.

### Nationals from June 16

Meanwhile, the Swimming Federation of India confirmed that the 79th Senior National Aquatic Championships will be held at the Veer Savarkar Sports Complex in Ahmedabad from June 16-21.

Dolphin Aquatics' Dhinidhi Desinghu won the women's 200m freestyle gold on the opening day of the State Senior Swimming Championships on Monday. DH FILE PHOTO

**Results: Men: 50m freestyle:** Prithvi M (BAC) 23.97s, 1; Harikarthik Velu (GF) 24.65, 2; R Navaneeth Gowda (DA) 24.69, 3.
**50m backstroke:** Srihari Nataraj (DA) 25.86s, 1; Akash Mani (BAC) 26.42, 2; Idhant Shashwat Chaturvedi (BAC) 27.93, 3.
**100m freestyle:** Aneesh S Gowda (BAC) 51.40s, 1; Akash Mani (BAC) 51.65, 2; Chinthan S Shetty (LAS) 52.44, 3.
**100m backstroke:** Akash Mani (BAC) 58.13s, 1; Samarth Gowda BS (BAC) 59.50, 2; Vedanta VM (BAC) 59.96, 3.
**100m breaststroke:** Vidith S Shankar (DA) 1:04.81, 1; Manikanta L (BAC) 1:05.04, 2; Surya Jhoyappa OR (BAC) 1:05.14, 3.
**400m freestyle:** Dharshan S (BAC) 3:59.07 (MR; Old: 3:59.56, Aneesh S Gowda, 2025), 1; Dhakshan S (BAC) 3:59.26, 2; Aneesh S Gowda (BAC) 4:00.98, 3.
**200m individual medley:** Shoan Ganguly (BAC) 2:08.55, 1; Chinthan S Shetty (LAS) 2:10.70, 2; Surya Jhoyappa OR (BAC) 2:14.00, 3.
**4x200m freestyle relay:** Basavanagudi Aquatic Centre A (8:01.63) 1; Basavanagudi Aquatic Centre B (8:02.89) 2; Dolphin Aquatics A (8:06.09) 3.
**Women: 50m backstroke:** Suvana C Baskar (DA) 30.19, 1; Vihitha Nayana (BAC) 30.75, 2; Naisha (BAC) 31.56, 3.
**50m breaststroke:** S Lakshya (BAC) 33.74s, 1; Lineysha AK (DA) 34.52, 2; Manavi Varma (DA) 34.74, 3.
**200m freestyle:** Dhinidhi Desinghu (DA) 2:04.20 (MR; Old: 2:06.22, Dhinidhi Desinghu, 2025) 1; Sri Charani Tumu (JIRS) 2:10.28, 2; Suhasini Ghosh (KSA) 2:10.89, 3.
**200m butterfly:** Suhasini Ghosh (KSA) 2:29.60, 1; S Lakshya (BAC) 2:31.60, 2; Anjali Hoskere (BAC) 2:34.57, 3.
**200m individual medley:** Tanishi Gupta (DA) 2:22.76, 1; Dhinidhi Desinghu (DA) 2:28.09, 2; Thanya S (JIRS) 2:29.06, 3.
**1500m freestyle:** Sri Charani Tumu (JIRS) 18:06.18, 1; Aditi N Mulay (BAC) 18:16.05, 2; Shirin (BAC) 18:23.08, 3.
**4x100m freestyle relay:** Dolphin Aquatics A (3:58.72) 1; Basavanagudi Aquatic Centre A (4:07.55) 2; Dolphin Aquatics B (4:09.37) 3.

Dharshan S

## Komal opens India's account at Asian Weightlifting

**GANDHINAGAR, PTI:** Komal Kohar opened hosts India's medal count, winning a bronze in the women's 48kg weight class at the Asian Weightlifting Championships here on Monday.

Competing in place of Tokyo silver medallist Mirabai Chanu, the 23-year-old lifter rose to the occasion with a composed performance, finishing with a combined lift of 177kg -- 78kg in snatch and 99kg in clean and jerk.

Her effort in clean and jerk also earned her a bronze medal in the discipline.

In a field missing several traditional heavyweights of Asian weightlifting, Chinese Taipei stamped its authority with a commanding one-two finish. Huang Yi Chen secured gold with a best effort of 193kg (81kg+112kg), while compatriot Fang Wan-Ling followed closely with 192kg (84kg+108kg) to take silver.

The women's 48kg division, a non-Olympic category, did not feature traditional powerhouses such as China, North Korea and Thailand.

"We've had our opportunities. We were not good enough. We were not consistent enough with the ball, with the bat, and that showed the margins.

**M JAYAWARDENE, MI COACH**



## IN BRIEF

### Adiran 'tricks in RT Nagar rout

▸ Adiran scored a hat-trick as RT Nagar (Hebbal) sank Bangalore North 4-1 in North Zone's Group A of the KSFA C Division League Championship at the BFS on Monday, reports DHNS.

**Results:** North Zone: Group A: RT Nagar (Hebbal): 4 (Adiran 4th, 5th, 10th, Shebin 50th) bt Bangalore North: 1 (Hakkeem CH 42nd); Samanth SA: 5 (Srikrishnan K 12th, Kaviguhanal L 25th, 40th, Raghval 37th, Amal Dev KP 50th)-bt GRK Youths: 0; Balaharaka FC: 0 drew with Raman SA: 0.
Group B: Stadium FC: 2 (Muhammed Munshid 26th, Mohammed Hisham KP 48th) drew with Hawks United: 2 (Satish B 13th, Sakthivel K 43rd); Alchemy Intl. FA: 6 (L Chihansa Awungshi 15th, CH Paoginlen Mate 22nd, MD Mustofa 33rd P, 45th, Laishram Suraj Singh 42nd, Longjam Sheitam Metei 47th) bt Samba FC: 0; Chitradurga FC: 2 (Adil Ahamed K 14th, 37th) bt Gopalan FC: 1 (Sivanesh 12th).

### Uzbekistan beat India colts

▸ India's hopes of qualifying for the FIFA U-17 World Cup on merit came crashing down as they lost to Uzbekistan in their second group match of the AFC U-17 Asian Cup in Jeddah on Sunday, reports PTI.

Strikes from Laziz Abduraimov (32nd) and Akhrorbek Ravshanbekov (78th), and an own goal by Indian midfielder Wangkhem Denny Singh (60th) gave Uzbekistan the dominant win in the Group D match.

### Chotrani loses to Asal

▸ India's Veer Chotrani went down 5-11, 2-11, 4-11 to Egyptian world No. 1 and defending champion Mostafa Asal in the men's second round of the World Squash Championships in Giza, Egypt, reports PTI.

The Indian challenge at the Worlds ended following first-round losses to compatriots Abhay Singh, Ramit Tandon and Velavan Senthilkumar.

### BFI bows after SAI crackdown

**NEW DELHI, PTI:** A day after the Sports Authority of India (SAI) suspended Boxing Federation of India's assessment camp over alleged irregularities, signs of a resolution emerged after talks between the two sides in which the BFI "agreed to rework the selection criteria".

The camp is likely to resume once the BFI provides a written assurance that the bout results in the selection process will not be held back until after meetings between the coaches and the federation's high-performance staff.

It is learnt that women's head coach Santiago Nieva and men's head coach CA Kuttappa met SAI officials on Monday, during which the federation was asked to strictly adhere to the principles of fair play.

"Nobody was against the assessment camp but the BFI cannot ignore principles of fair play. They are now being made to adhere to those principles and they have promised to comply. A written commitment is still awaited," a SAI source said.

### ◆ ON TV ◆

**CRICKET**

**IPL:** GT vs SRH (**7:30 pm**). **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network**, **JioHotstar**.

**FOOTBALL**

**La Liga:** Celta Vigo vs Levante (**10:30 pm**), Real Betis vs Elche (**11:30 pm**), Osasuna vs Atletico (**1 am, Wednesday**). **LIVE** on **FanCode**.

**ISL:** Mohun Bagan vs Inter Kashi (**7:30 pm**). **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network, FanCode**.

**TENNIS**

**ATP Masters:** Rome Masters Round of 16 (**5:30 pm**). **LIVE** on **FanCode**.

# Capitals deliver to stay alive

## Miller, Axar condemn Punjab Kings to fourth straight defeat

DHARAMSALA, PTI

David Miller and captain Axar Patel engineered a record run chase for Delhi Capitals with their counterattacking knocks as the visitors upstaged Punjab Kings by three wickets to stay alive in the Indian Premier League here on Monday.

Aggressive knocks from Miller (51 off 28) and skipper Axar Patel (56 off 30) allowed Delhi Capitals to gun down 211 in 19 overs for the highest chase at the HPCA Stadium.

Priyansh Arya hit half a dozen sixes in his whirlwind 33-ball 56 before Delhi Capitals pacers tweaked their lengths to limit Punjab Kings to 210 for five.

Having remained unbeaten in the first half of the tournament, Punjab Kings have now lost four in a row and need at least two wins from their remaining three games to make the playoffs.

David Miller (left) and Axar Patel smashed counter-attacking half-centuries to power Delhi Capitals to a much-needed three-wicket win over Punjab Kings in Dharamsala on Monday. PTI

**SCOREBOARD**

**PUNJAB KINGS:** Priyansh Arya c Parakh b Madhav Tiwari 56, Prabhsimran Singh c Nabi b Mukesh Kumar 18, Shreyas Iyer (not out) 59, Cooper Connolly c Miller b Madhav Tiwari 38, Marcus Stoinis c Madhav Tiwari b Mitchell Starc 1, Shashank Singh c Axar Patel b Mitchell Starc 0, Suryansh Shedge (not out) 21. Extras (B-4, W-11, NB-2) 17. **TOTAL (for 5 wkts, 20 overs) 210.**
**Fall of wickets:** 1-78, 2-97, 3-180, 4-187, 5-187.
**Bowling:** Mitchell Starc 4-0-57-2, Auqib Nabi Dar 4-0-32-0, Lungi Ngidi 4-0-46-0, Mukesh Kumar 4-0-31-1, Madhav Tiwari 4-0-40-2.
**DELHI CAPITALS:** KL Rahul c Jansen b Arshdeep Singh 9, Abishek Porel b Yash Thakur 5, Sahil Parakh c Chahal b Arshdeep Singh 13, Tristan Stubbs run out (Connolly) 12, Axar Patel c Dwarshuis b Marcus Stoinis 56, David Miller c Prabhsimran Singh b Ben Dwarshuis 51, Ashutosh Sharma c (sub)Praveen Dubey b Yash Thakur 24, Madhav Tiwari (not out) 18, Auqib Nabi Dar (not out) 10. Extras (W-17, NB-1) 18. **TOTAL (for 7 wkts, 19 overs) 216.**
**Fall of wickets:** 1-10, 2-14, 3-33, 4-74, 5-138, 6-170, 7-205.
**Bowling:** Arshdeep Singh 4-0-21-2, Yash Thakur 4-0-55-2, Marco Jansen 4-0-45-0, Ben Dwarshuis 4-0-51-1, Marcus Stoinis 3-0-44-1.
**Results:** DC won by three wkts
**PoM:** Madhav Tiwari

Barring Arshdeep Singh, the bowlers let the team down with their wayward display.

However, the home team's bowlers did the job in the Powerplay. Punjaj Kings struck thrice for the first time in the powerplay, leaving Delhi Capitals reeling at 47 for three in the first six overs.

Arshdeep Singh, who has been rather expensive this season, returned impressive figures of two for 21 in four overs.It was Yash Thakur who provided the first breakthrough by castling Abhishek Porel with a ball that seamed back in from length to knock out the middle stump.

KL Rahul was caught at fine leg after mistiming a whip off Arshdeep. The young Sahil Parakh played a few impressive strokes in his brief stay before being crammed up for space by Arshdeep to be caught at short third man.

It became 74 for four with the run out of Tristan Stubbs extending the struggles of DC batters.

However, Miller (51 off 28) and Axar (56 off 30) brought life back into the game with their counterattacking 64-run stand off 34 balls.

Eventually, Ashutosh Sharma (24) and Madav Tiwari (18) came up with timely cameos to keep DC alive in the competition.

DC, struggling to stay alive in the tournament, opted to field in the first game of the season at the scenic venue here after making five changes to their side.

The ball generally flies off the bat in the high altitude of Dharamsala and that was very much evident in the first over of the game from Mitchell Starc, who proved rather expensive on the night.

Priyansh took the veteran Australian pacer to the cleaners in the over that went for 22 runs. His onslaught included a six square of the wicket on either side.

The southpaw not only dispatched Starc for a first ball six, he also meted out the same treatment to the wily Lungi Ngidi and Mukesh Kumar.

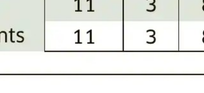
# SRH, GT face off in high-stakes clash

AHMEDABAD, PTI

**LIVE 7:30 PM**

As the IPL enters its decisive final phase, second-placed Sunrisers Hyderabad and third-ranked Gujarat Titans prepare for a critical showdown here on Tuesday, which could prove to be pivotal in shaping the playoff race.

The Shubman Gill-led GT appear slightly better placed after recovering from a slow start to the season with a string of crucial wins, including a commanding 77-run victory over Rajasthan Royals, which lifted them to third on the points table.



With the top three sides -- RCB, SRH and GT -- all locked on 14 points, net run rate could become a decisive factor in the race for the playoffs, making it imperative for SRH to improve theirs in front of their home crowd.

SRH have found their rhythm at the right time, with the emphatic 33-run win over Punjab Kings underlining their immense batting potential after piling up a massive 235 for 4. But despite their resurgence and stronger position on the table, they cannot afford complacency as the race for the playoffs remains extremely tight and a single misstep could prove costly.

GT's biggest strength lies in the balance of their side, particularly their batting, which revolves around skipper Gill and Sai Sudharsan, both of whom have provided solidity at the top while negotiating the powerplay smartly.

With experienced campaigners like Jos Buttler and Washington Sundar adding depth, GT prefer building steadily before accelerating through the middle and death overs, an approach that has served them well both while setting targets and in chases.

Their bowling attack is equally formidable with the pace and wicket-taking ability of Mohammed Siraj and Kagiso Rabada **(in pic)** complemented perfectly by Rashid Khan's control and match-turning spells in the middle overs.

Of late, their bowling has looked far more disciplined and effective than it did at the start of the season, a sign that the overseas pacers are settling well into Indian conditions.

**POINTS TABLE**

| Team | Played | Won | Lost | NR | Pts | NRR |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Royal Challengers | 11 | 7 | 4 | 0 | 14 | 1.103 |
| Sunrisers Hyderabad | 11 | 7 | 4 | 0 | 14 | 0.737 |
| Gujarat Titans | 11 | 7 | 3 | 0 | 14 | 0.228 |
| Punjab Kings | 11 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 13 | 0.428 |
| Chennai Super Kings | 11 | 6 | 5 | 0 | 12 | 0.185 |
| Rajasthan Royals | 11 | 6 | 5 | 0 | 12 | 0.082 |
| Delhi Capitals | 12 | 5 | 7 | 0 | 10 | -0.993 |
| Kolkata Knight Riders | 10 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 9 | -0.169 |
| Mumbai Indians | 11 | 3 | 8 | 0 | 6 | -0.585 |
| Lucknow Super Giants | 11 | 3 | 8 | 0 | 6 | -0.907 |

# Krunal carves out a special

## All-rounder turns the clock back with vintage knock in RCB's win over MI

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
RAIPUR, DHNS

RCB's Krunal Pandya battled cramps to play a match-winning 46-ball 73 against Mumbai Indians on Sunday in Raipur. AFP

Royal Challengers Bengaluru's Krunal Pandya effectively won two battles at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Stadium here on Sunday night.

The first was against his old, beloved team, the Mumbai Indians; the second, against his own body. And without a doubt, the latter was the tougher challenge to come through.

Krunal was down. As his muscles cramped, restricting body movement, he started to limp through for singles. And at a stage when he was unable to run and keep his shape while trying to hit the ball, he did not mindlessly slog deliveries that came his way, and continued to take it deep.

As the body started to give up, Krunal kept going. And that's the philosophy his life runs on: down but never out.

"The cramps were very, very painful. It started from my calf, went to my glutes, went to my back, everywhere, but I wanted to fight through," Krunal admitted at the post-match press conference.

RCB were 28 for three in 5.1 overs when Krunal, having earned a batting promotion, arrived at the crease. And when he walked back after a sensational 46-ball 73 that eventually helped RCB cross the finish line, Raipur rose in applause.

The scoreboard reflected Krunal had contributed 43.7 per cent of RCB's runs on the night, but it was not as easy to do as it was to see. Not when your body is restricted in movement, and not with the mind making all possible calculations of the chase.

"I was very clear that I'm not going to go out and fight through that pain. I realised that it was very difficult to run, at one point, even to move. Glad I was able to get those two sixes."

Krunal repelled everything the Mumbai bowlers threw at him. On a slow surface where it was difficult to hit through the line, Krunal controlled the innings, then started to pierce it through the gaps before he finally found his range. At this point, he was not just batting, as each ball had become a battle against the body.

"At the end of the day, you know you have to score the target that is in front of you. I did not want to go into a defensive mindset. Then I picked my areas where I wanted to hit. It was a very crucial game for us. I was clear I would fight and make sure that I can contribute in whatever way possible."

The victory propelled RCB to the top of the table, and Krunal was a pleased chap. However, in the back of the mind is something bigger, one he has not been a part of since July 2021.

"When I was a kid, the dream was to play for India. That has still not changed. 100 per cent, the goal is to play for India. Next year, we have a World Cup coming. Fingers crossed."

Krunal admitted that he wants to win every time but also understands that there are no guarantees in sport, and that keeps him grounded.

"I hate losing, but I'm a very graceful loser. Whenever you play cricket, one thing you realise is that you have more bad days than good. A lot of credit goes to my wife, my mom. And I remember my dad, who is not here, in days like these."

Krunal might not have finished the game, but time and again, he has proved to be the man for the big moments.

# Prodigious Atiqa makes smashing European debut

VALENCIA, PTI

Indian racing sensation Atiqa Mir exceeded expectations on her FIA European Championship debut, finishing a stellar sixth in Race 2 in the "pinnacle" of karting here.

Awarded a wildcard for round two of the championship considering her special talent, the 11-year-old was once again thrown at the deep end, and yet again she was able to navigate a majority of the challenges that were posed by the best in the business.

Atiqa, India's first Formula 1 Academy backed driver and also the highest ranked female in the OKNJ class (age 12-14) in the FIA ranking, had to deal with a more powerful equipment in the OKJ category and a tricky set of Maxxis tyres for the first time against 92 world class drivers with much more experience.

Atiqa Mir. FILE PHOTO

Qualifying position is often decisive in a heavily populated field but Atiqa fought her way into the Super Heats of the FIA (world body for four wheel racing) sanctioned series, showing a lot of fight and speed after starting 15th on the grid.

Atiqa's best race finish of the weekend was P6 in Race 2 and she also got the coveted Fastest Lap in Race 5. A few crashes and penalties notwithstanding, the Indian with roots in J&K qualified for the Super Heats on her debut and attracted attention of the entire paddock.

Voluntarily competing in the higher age category, Atiqa showed she belonged there and collected invaluable experience for the season ahead. Aiming to become the first female in Formula 1 since 1992, Atiqa would also be taking part in the FIA World Cup later in the year.

Reflecting on the special weekend, Atiqa said: "It's really special driving in a FIA series, it is a dream come true for me. My pace was good the entire weekend. I raced hard and learnt a lot this weekend. It is fun mixing it up with these guys."

Atiqa's father Asif Mir, a former India racer himself, was happy with her performance considering the enormous challenge at hand.

### Menon stays in Elite Panel

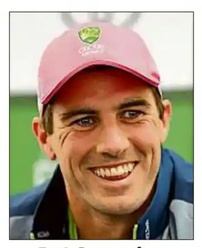
**DUBAI, PTI:** Nitin Menon remains the only Indian in the ICC Elite Panel of Umpires after the governing body on Monday named an unchanged team of match officials for the 2026-27 international season following its annual review.

Following a comprehensive assessment by its Umpire Selection Panel, the International Cricket Council (ICC) retained the existing group of elite umpires and match referees.

**ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees (2026-27):** Jeff Crowe (New Zealand), Ranjan Madugalle (Sri Lanka), Andrew Pycroft (Zimbabwe), Richie Richardson (West Indies), Javagal Srinath (India).
**ICC Elite Panel of Umpires (2026-27):** Kumar Dharmasena (Sri Lanka), Christopher Gaffaney (New Zealand), Adrian Holdstock (South Africa), Richard Illingworth (England), Richard Kettleborough (England), Nitin Menon (India), Allahuddien Paleker (South Africa), Ahsan Raza (Pakistan), Paul Reiffel (Australia), Sharfuddoula Ibne Shahid (Bangladesh), Rodney Tucker (Australia), Alex Wharf (England).

### Star Aus bowling trio to miss Pakistan, Bangladesh tour

**SYDNEY, PTI:** Australia has rested its premier pace trio of Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood for the upcoming limited-overs tours of Pakistan and Bangladesh, opting to manage their workloads following a gruelling Indian Premier League season.



Pat Cummins

The decision opens the door for fresh talent even as Cummins, Starc and Hazlewood use the break to prepare for Australia's World Test Championship campaign, which resumes in August with a two-match home Test series against Bangladesh.

The trio will miss the three-match series against Pakistan starting May 30, with uncapped all-rounder Liam Scott and Australia Under-19 World Cup captain Ollie Peake earning their first senior international call-ups in a new-look Australian squad.

The IPL concludes on May 31.

Young batter Joel Davies is another new face.

**Australia ODI squad for Pakistan:** Mitchell Marsh (capt), Alex Carey, Nathan Ellis, Cameron Green, Josh Inglis, Matthew Kuhnemann, Marnus Labuschagne, Riley Meredith, Ollie Peake, Matthew Renshaw, Tanveer Sangha, Liam Scott, Matthew Short, Billy Stanlake, Adam Zampa.
**Australia ODI squad for Bangladesh:** Mitchell Marsh (capt), Xavier Bartlett, Alex Carey, Cooper Connolly, Ben Dwarshuis, Nathan Ellis, Cameron Green, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Matthew Kuhnemann, Marnus Labuschagne, Matthew Renshaw, Tanveer Sangha, Liam Scott, Adam Zampa.
**Australia T20 squad for Bangladesh:** Mitchell Marsh (capt), Xavier Bartlett, Cooper Connolly, Tim David, Joel Davies, Nathan Ellis, Cameron Green, Aaron Hardie, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Spencer Johnson, Matthew Kuhnemann, Riley Meredith, Josh Philippe, Matthew Renshaw, Adam Zampa.

### David, Flower handed IPL sanctions

**NEW DELHI, PTI:** Royal Challengers Bengaluru all-rounder Tim David and head coach Andy Flower were on Monday fined for separate breaches of the IPL Code of Conduct during their match against Mumbai Indians.

David was fined 30 per cent of his match fee and also accumulated two demerit points for breaching Level 1 of the IPL's Code of Conduct for Players and Team officials.

Flower, meanwhile, was fined 15 per cent of his applicable match fee for breaching Level 1 of the IPL's Code of Conduct by getting involved in a dispute with the fourth umpire during the match.

"Tim was found to have breached article 2.6 of the IPL's Code of Conduct, which relates to 'using a gesture that is obscene, offensive or insulting'," an IPL media advisory stated.

"Tim admitted to the offence and accepted the sanction imposed by Match Referee, Amit Sharma."

Meanwhile for Flower, IPL stated: "Andy was found to have breached article 2.3 of the IPL's Code of Conduct."

### India retain top spot in men's ODI rankings

**DUBAI, PTI:** India retained the top position in the ICC's men's ODI team rankings after the latest annual update with reigning world champions Australia claiming the third spot.

In a statement issued on Monday, the ICC said, "India remain at the pinnacle of the ICC Men's ODI Team Rankings after the latest annual update, leading second-placed New Zealand (113 points) by a narrow five-point margin, while Australia (109 points) retain the third place to round off the top three."

Printed and published by B A Ravi on behalf of The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, at The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, Plot nos. 7-12, Kumbalgodu Industrial Area, Bengaluru - 560 074. Executive Editor: K V Subramanya (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act). Editorial Office: 75, M.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 001. E-mail: editor@deccanherald.co.in. Phone: 080-45557333, Editorial: 080-45557279/080-45557280, Circ: 080-45557204, Advt: 080-45557163/080-45557164. Also printed at Hubballi-Dharwad, Mangaluru, Kalaburagi, Davangere, Mysuru and Hosapete. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited. RNI No 3608/57. Registered, Regn. No: KRNA/BGE/1027/2023-2025, posted at Bangalore PSO, Mysore Road, Bengaluru - 560 026. Website: www.printersmysore.com